Senate scraps bill for new voter registration

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2001 ★ 42 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 104 P15

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Vatican confirms report on priests raping nuns

VATICAN CITY—The Vatican acknowledged on Tuesday a damning report that some priests and missionaries were raping nuns and in some cases were forcing them to take contraceptive pills or have abortions.

The Vatican said the issue was restricted to a certain geographical area, but the report cited cases in 23 countries, including the Philippines,

VATICAN/ A14

Marcoses to ask Greggy to explain

Bongbong, Imelda didn't know of scheme, friend says

BY CRISTINA ARZADON, KIRA ESPINO, DONNA CUETO AND BLANCHE RIVERA

IRENE Marcos' husband Gregorio Araneta apparently has some explaining to do—not only to Philippine, German and Swiss authorities, but to his in-laws, a close friend of the Marcos family told the INQUIRER in Laoag yesterday.

The family broke its silence on reports of an alleged money-laundering attempt by the Araneta couple. even as President Macapagal-Arroyo finally instructed the Department of Justice to assist in the investigation into the Marcoses' supposed hidden wealth in Switzerland.

And in Berlin, Philippine Embassy officials have sought the help of the German secret service, the Bundesnachtrichtendiest, to verify the alleged money-laundering attempt, according to a report from ambassador to Germany Jose Zaide.

The Marcos family friend said "Greggy" Araneta would be asked to explain what transpired in Germany in February, since Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and former first lady Imelda Marcos were kept in the dark about the Araneta couple's trip.

MARCOSES/ A15

'Aranetas' silence has been deafening'

BY DAVID A. CHAIKIN

(Editor's note: In an article published Monday, American businessman Curtiss Waters denied accusations by Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi and the author that he had participated in a plan of Irene and Greggy Araneta to launder money in Dusseldorf, Germany. Chaikin, Jacobi's lawyer, disputes Waters' side of the story in his own version of events in February.)

THE SILENCE of the Aranetas has been deafening since the INQUIRER's series of reports on their attempt to secretly move their billions out of Switzerland came out.

Now we have Curtiss Waters' spin on the money-laundering transaction.

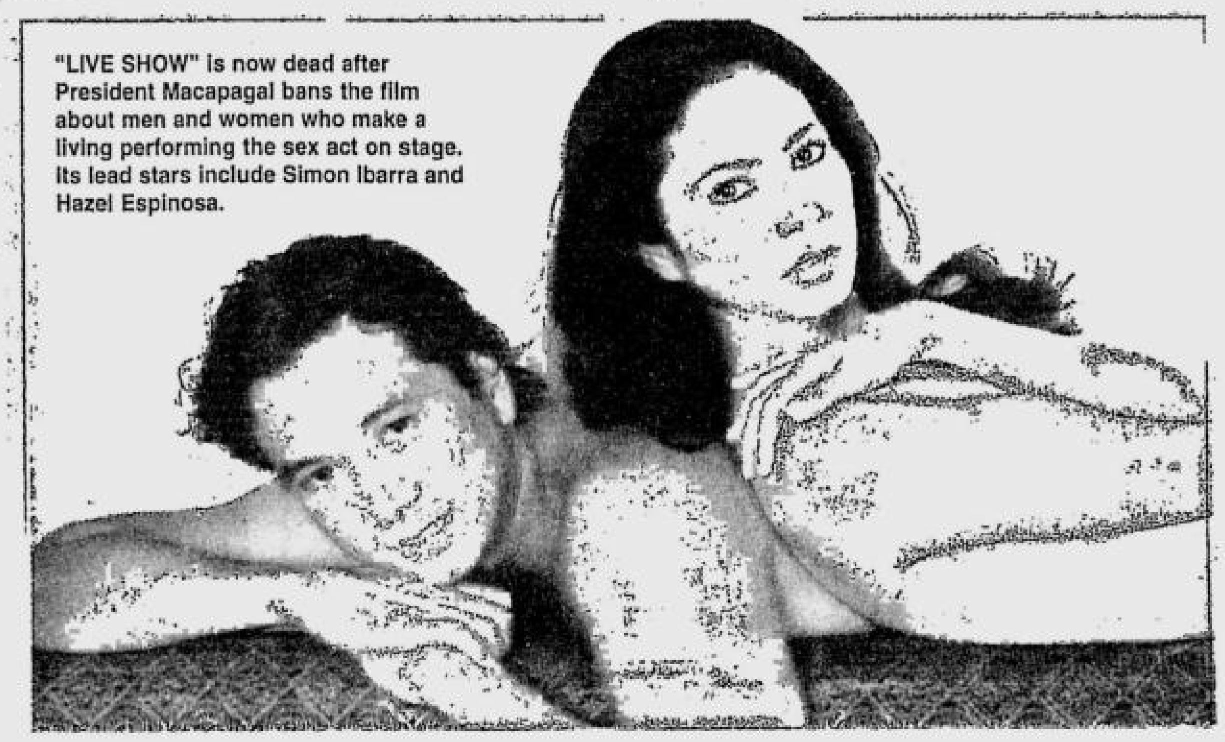
Waters' letter amounts to an admission that the events that occurred in Dusseldorf are true.

He has come forward to write this piece of drivel on behalf of his friends, Irene and Greggy Araneta and Edna Camcam (longtime companion of the late Gen. Fabian Ver).

Curtiss Waters played a critical role in the events leading up to the criminal conspiracy. The plan to get a "friendly banker" to help the Aranetas, and the steps to execute the money-laundering project were devised by American businessman Hank Hutcherson and Waters in talks and through correspondence with Jun Camcam, Edna's son.

Waters himself was principally responsible for the Araneta couple flying to Germany and attempting to launder the Marcos monies. He has betrayed his friends, not deliberately, but through sheer avarice and stupidity. He is the one who is being blamed by the Marcos family for this embarrassing scandal.

ARANETAS/ A15



"LIVE SHOW" is now dead after President Macapagal bans the film about men and women who make a living performing the sex act on stage. Its lead stars include Simon Ibarra and Hazel Espinosa.

TIONGSON: Cardinal Sin berated me in the harshest language.

Chief censor quits; Church meddling hit

BY LEAH SALTERIO, DONNA S. CUETO AND NORMAN BORDADORA

NICANOR Tiongson, chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), resigned from his post yesterday following President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to ban the sex film "Live Show."

The film is a social commentary on poverty which is forcing *toros* and *toreras* (live sex performers) to engage in sex onstage for a living.

The President banned the film on Wednesday as a result of intense lobbying from Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and Catholic women's groups.

"I submit my irrevocable resignation as chair of the MTRCB because I refuse to be an instrument for the repression of freedom of expression, a basic human right guaranteed by the 1987 Constitution," Tiongson said in a statement. He held the post for only five weeks.

MTRCB insiders said educator Alejandro Roces might replace Tiongson.

"I just hope they appoint someone who will be tolerant of the different points of view from all sectors," said Tiongson, an academician and former president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

CHIEF/ A9

Senate kills bill for new voters listing

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO, VOLT CONTRERAS AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

THE BILL in Congress providing for a special registration for first-time voters before the May 14 elections has been scrapped.

The Senate and the House of Representatives ended yesterday its three-day special session without approving the measure seeking to allow the 18-year-olds, who failed to sign onto the electoral roll in their respective precincts last year.

The death of the proposal came after Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo admitted to the Senate that the poll body would be "physically unable to cope" with the preparations for the special registration.

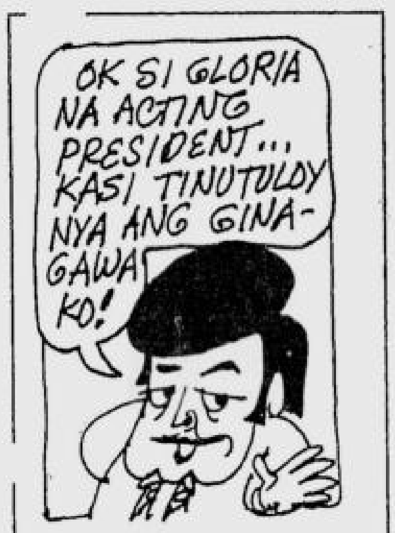
Benipayo told the senators in a closed-door meeting and later on the Senate floor that the special registration could still be held if the country postponed the May 14 polls to June 4, something that the senators all rejected.

"We had to scrap it in light of the admission of the Comelec that it just couldn't do it within the time limit set out in the bill. And the alternative of postponing the (May 14) elections is to our mind a worse cure than the disease," Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., told reporters shortly after the Senate adjourned the session.

House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte did not hide his disappointment with Benipayo, who he said gave Congress "false hopes" at the start of the special session.

"*Pinaasa pa niya kami,*" he said before proceeding to the plenary hall at 6:20 last night to relay Pimentel's decision to adjourn the special session.

SENATE/ A14


OK SI GLORIA NA ACTING PRESIDENT... KASI TINUTULOY NYA ANG GINAGAWA KO!

Erap: Gloria looking better now, but ...

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

HE'S ALWAYS had an eye for good-looking ladies to include even his successor. Apparently, deposed President Joseph Estrada has been keeping an eye on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and likes what he sees.

ERAP/ A14

JOAN BONDOC

BETWEEN US GIRLS

President Macapagal smartly executes a girl's scout salute to scouters of the P. Guevara Elementary School in San Nicolas, Manila.

Namfrel gets top billing in poll count

BY ALCUIN PAPA AND GERALD LACUARTA

ALTHOUGH both the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and the National Press Club (NPC) have been authorized by the Commission on Elections to conduct separate quick counts in the May 14 polls, it is the Namfrel tally that would be given more weight.

Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo told a Philippine Bar Association luncheon yesterday that Namfrel will get the sixth copy of the election returns. The NPC will be given the seventh copy of the certificate of votes which, he said, "is not an accountable form" compared to the election returns.

Election returns contain the complete tabulation of the voting results while certificates of votes contain only the

NAMFREL/ A14

THE 11TH HOUR DECISION

An invitation to treachery

BY GEN. ANGELO T. REYES (RET.)

(Second of a series)

IN NOVEMBER 2000, after the commencement of the Senate blue ribbon committee investigation into the so-called "jueteng" exposé, I entertained the notion of convincing President Estrada to resign—primarily to spare himself and his high office from the ignominy of an impeachment trial.

Regardless of the outcome of this process—once played out—I foresaw that a public flagellation of the Estrada presidency would seriously erode respect for government and sharply polarize our society.

AN INVITATION/ A14

Second FRONT PAGE

'YAN ANG TAMA! ANGKININ ANG ATIN!

Gloria lauds Navy on Sino boats

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday praised the Philippine Navy for driving away Chinese fishing vessels that intruded into the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea last week.

MACAPAGAL

Her remarks came shortly after the foreign office announced that she and Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. would make separate visits this year to China in a bid to resolve territorial disputes that are a frequent source of tension between the two countries.

A militant group of fisherfolk, however, criticized the government for its "lame-duck" attitude in dealing with the Scarborough Shoal dispute.

In a speech during a visit to the Navy headquarters, the President vowed to modernize the country's fleet to enable it to protect Philippines borders.

She said her visit was to "personally congratulate the brave men of the Navy for your recent successful accomplishment at the Scarborough Shoal," a rocky outcrop that lies west of Luzon and is claimed by China.

Incursions by Chinese fishermen who poach in the area have become frequent. In the latest incident last week, the Philippine Navy boarded 10 Chinese fishing boats near the shoal. Their catch were confiscated and the vessels and crew driven from the area.

The incident provoked formal protests from both sides.

In a statement, the fishermen's group Pamalakaya said the diplomatic protest filed by National Security Adviser Roilo Golez was not enough to guarantee that Chinese fishing vessels will stop their intrusion.

Rodolfo Sambajon, Pamalakaya national chair, urged the government to take a strong stand on the issue, saying "tin cup diplomacy" would not work to the country's advantage.

"The government is passive in pursuing the dispute for years. Its lackluster and non-assertive approach puts premium to perpetual encroachment of Chinese fishing and naval vessels within the country's territorial waters," Sambajon said.

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja said there was official concern over the rising incidence of Chinese visits in the area.

"There is a danger that fish and other species of marine life there would be depleted," he said over radio dzMM.

Armed Forces officials said Navy patrols would continue near Scarborough despite protests from China.

"We will continue to have patrols and continue to be alert," said AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

Navy chief Rear Admiral Victorino Hingco noted that "all is quiet on the western front" days after the interception, but he stressed that "the patrols will continue so long as we are within our territorial waters. We will continue to enforce our laws."

China also expressed concern over the ongoing joint military exercise being conducted by the Philippines, the United States and Thailand in the waters off Zambales near Scarborough.

But the Chinese Embassy's political counselor, Chen Dehai, was quick to assure Manila that Beijing would not intervene because of a standing agreement among the three countries on the conduct of the search-and-rescue exercise.

Baja said the President would visit Shanghai in October, while Guingona, who is also foreign secretary, would go to China in May. *Reports from Carlito Pablo, Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Rocky Nazareno and AFP*

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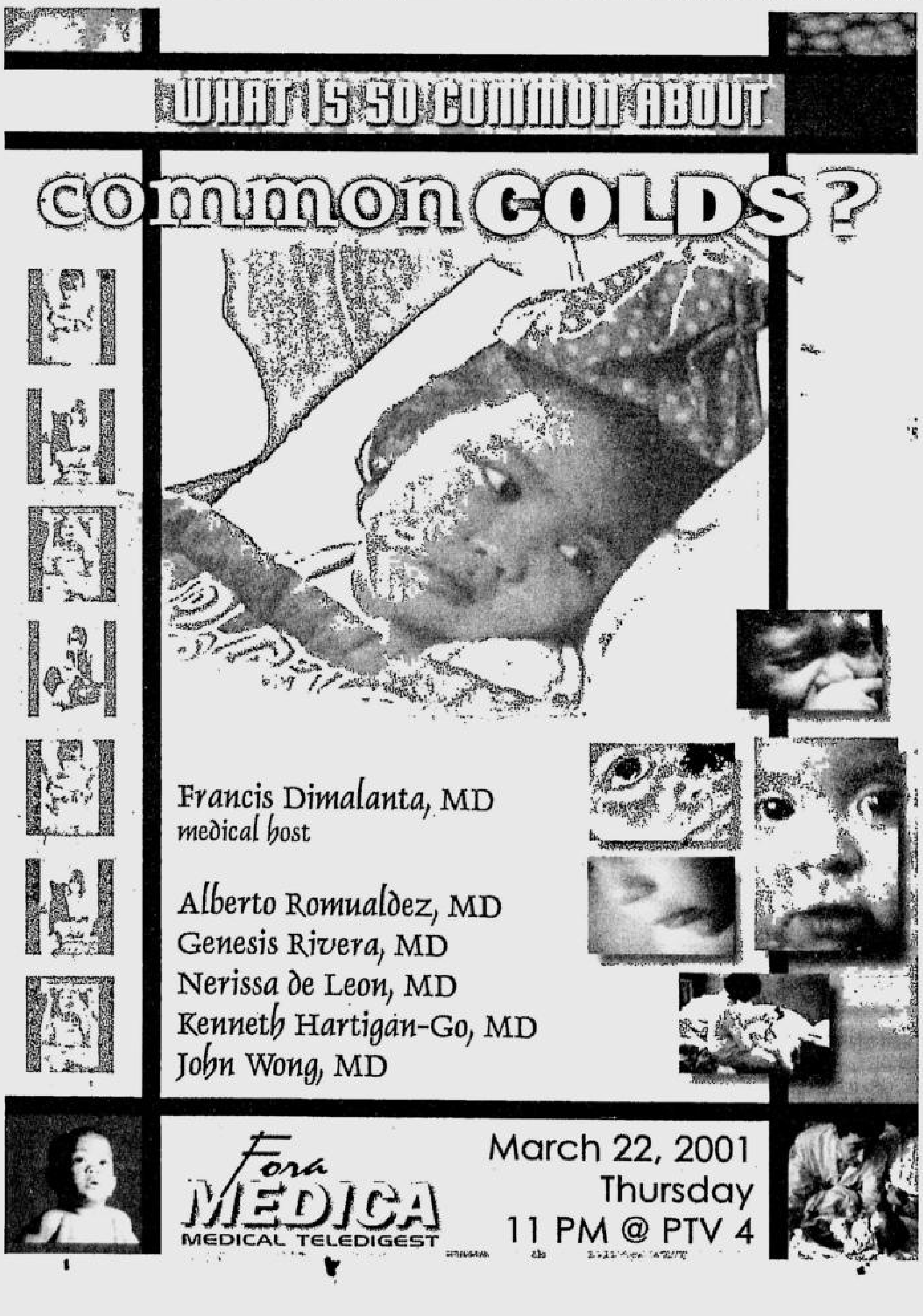

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DOJ to Mark Jimenez: Sing or face the music in US

By Cathy Yamsuan

MARK Jimenez has two choices, according to the Department of Justice.

He can either elaborate on the extortion charges he hurled against former President Joseph Estrada and continue staying in the Philippines until he testifies in court, or leave the country soon if he refuses to do so.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said there is no blackmail involved. In the first place, it was the DOJ that requested the US government to defer its appeal for Jimenez's extradition.

"Mark Jimenez understands the situation and there is no intent on the part of the DOJ to deceive him," Perez assured reporters in a news conference yesterday.

"He knows that if he is no longer useful, we shall proceed with the extradition," the secretary explained.

The DOJ and Jimenez have agreed that he stays in the country only because his testimony is required in the plunder case being readied against Estrada.

Once his testimony is finished, Jimenez will be sent back to the US to face criminal charges including campaign fraud, tax evasion and illegal contributions made to the Democratic Party during the reelection bid of then President Bill Clinton in 1996.

Jimenez, once Estra-da's presidential adviser on Latin American affairs, has already submitted an affidavit to the DOJ detailing the huge cash deposits he made to the former president's various bank accounts, including the notorious Jose Velarde account with the Equitable-PCIBank.

It is a common perception that Jimenez used his closeness to the former president to evade the US government's efforts to extradite him.

Jimenez reportedly approached the DOJ and offered to testify against Estrada shortly after he left Malacañang.

The Office of the Ombudsman has asked Jimenez to elaborate on his charge that Estrada "extorted" money from him as stated in his affidavit.

There are reports that Jimenez submitted a supplemental affidavit to comply with the order but this does not contain any new information that could help the government's efforts to prosecute Estrada.

In an interview over dzMM earlier yesterday, Perez complained in Filipino that Jimenez himself is proving to the government that "he is no longer useful to us since he cannot explain the extortion charge he hurled (against Estrada)."

"Jimenez used the word extortion. That the checks he deposited in Estrada's accounts meant extortion, or were either loans (that were never paid) or advanced commissions.

"If he cannot explain these charges he raised in his affidavit, Jimenez himself proves to the government that he is no longer needed. If so, then let's just turn him over to the Americans," Perez proposed.

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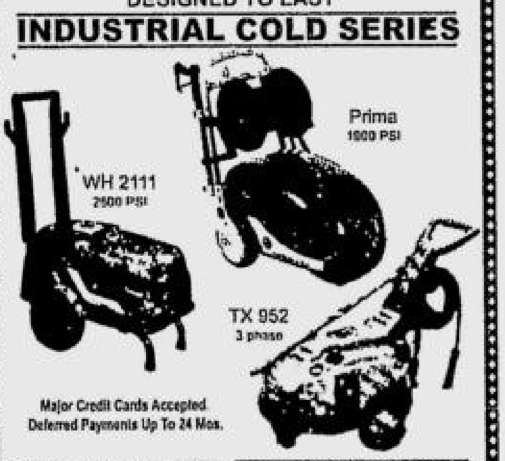

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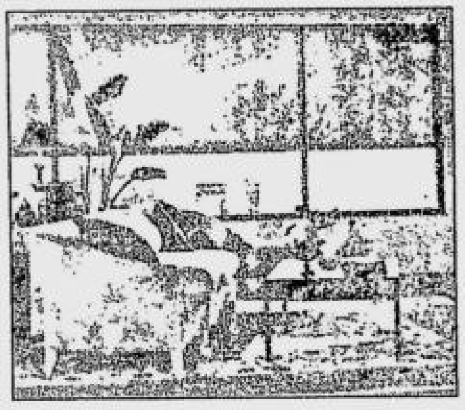

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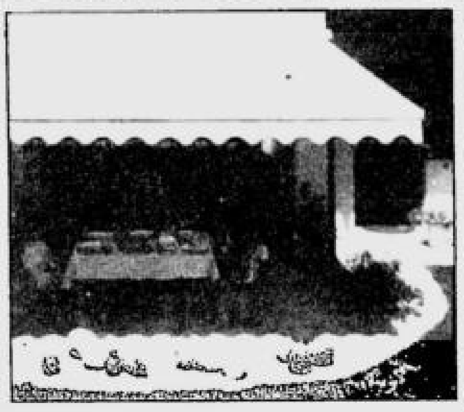

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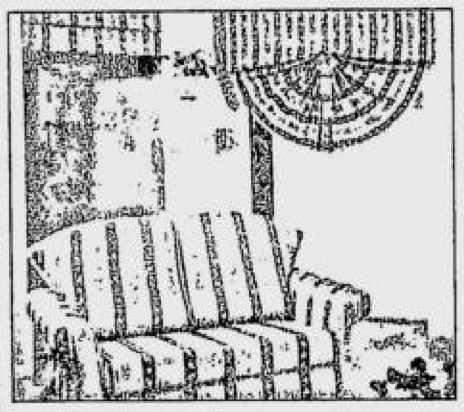

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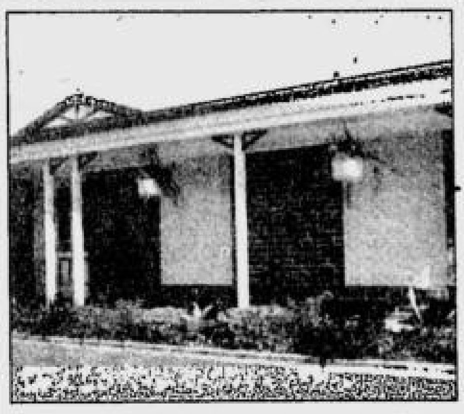

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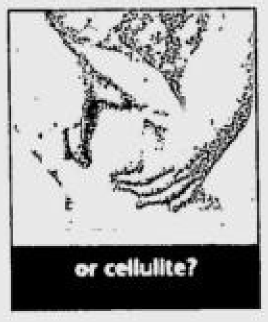

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Cop faces raps in Dacer case

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday asked the Department of Justice to file kidnapping charges against a policeman linked to the abduction of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer.

The policeman, SP04 Marino Soberano, was positively identified by a witness as one of the eight persons who seized Dacer at gunpoint at a busy Manila intersection on Nov. 24, according to NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco.

Dacer, 63, and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, have not been heard from since. Dacer's car, a white Toyota Revo, was found abandoned in a ravine in Cavite several days later.

Soberano was a member of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, an elite police unit that was directly under the command of the national police chief in the administration of former president Joseph Estrada. That police chief was Gen. Panfilo Lacson who has since resigned and is running for senator in the May 14 elections.

Another witness said Soberano, who is at large, was among a group of policemen who raided the house of a Dacer neighbor three days before the abduction, Wycoco said. That raid was suspected to be cover for a surveillance operation on Dacer.

Wycoco said the NBI has also recommended the justice department file charges of obstruction of justice against Soberano's immediate superior, Insp. Wilson Pedido.

Pedido, Wycoco said, misled investigators when he tried to conceal the participation of Soberano in the Nov. 21 raid on the neighbor's house at Marigold St., Sun Valley subdivision in Parañaque.

Pedido headed the 10-man task force team that swooped down on the home.

Wycoco said the witness against Soberano is a hand towel vendor who was hawking his wares on the street when Dacer was seized.

Wycoco said he positively identified Soberano in a lineup at the NBI.

Another of Soberano's superiors, Sr. Supt. Teofilo Viña resembled a cartographic sketch of another of the kidnappers but he has not been charged in the case for lack of evidence, Wycoco said.

Viña denied any participation in the Dacer case after his name surfaced in connection with it, saying he was in Cebu at the time of the abduction.

Philippine Airlines records, however, showed he flew from Cebu to Manila on Nov. 23 and then back to Cebu on the evening of the 24th, the day Dacer and Corbito were abducted.

Soberano has since opted for an early retirement from the police. He is now at large. *With a report from AFP*

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ERRATA

In the 2-page supplement ad of the New Petroleum Players Association of the Philippines (NPPAP) that appeared in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on March 20, 2001, the following inadvertent errors were committed. We hope to correct such errors, as follows:

1. The correct and factual logo of Subic Bay Distribution, Inc , should be:

SUBIC BAY DISTRIBUTION, INC.

2. PTT Philippines, Incorporated should not have the name "Subic Bay Distribution, Inc." below its logo.
3. Unioil's number of stations is currently 22 and capacity of bulk plant is 1 million to be expanded to 1.5 million barrels, and not 250 million barrels as erroneously reported.

OUR APOLOGIES TO CONCERNED PARTIES.

Erap making comeback through party list, says solon

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE "GENUINE" party list groups yesterday expressed fear that the deposed President Joseph Estrada and his allies could stage a stunning comeback in Congress through the party list system while no one is looking.

The incumbent representatives of Akbayan and Abanse! Pinay, and a nominee of Bayan Muna, said the Commission on Elections should not have allowed the entry of "fake" party list groups like those affiliated with Estrada.

In a forum at the Ciudad Fernandina in Greenhills yesterday, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said the party list system has become a venue for the reentry of Estrada and his minions because of the groups identified with him.

"What if Estrada makes it as congressman through the party list?" Rodales asked. "I mean, you never really know what's happening. That's why we're making noise here."

She said the genuine party list representatives would work to make sure that no hocus pocus occurs if Estrada groups such as Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (Mad), Justice, Economy, Environment and Peace (Jeep) and the Kabataan ng Masang Pilpino made it to the House of Representatives.

She stressed that guarding the party list system from hosting the deposed president and his friends was "a very important issue" now because Estrada is obviously returning to the political scene through the senatorial candidates, which include his wife, and the party list system.

Mad was a project initiated by the office of the President during Estrada's presidency and led by his son, JV Ejercito. It is fielding actor Richard Gomez as its party list nominee.

"It's hard to go against groups with such machinery," said Abanse! Pinay Rep. Patricia Sarenas "They're fake because they're not representing marginalized sector."

"And they're very rich," she said, adding the Estrada group has "billboards all over the country."

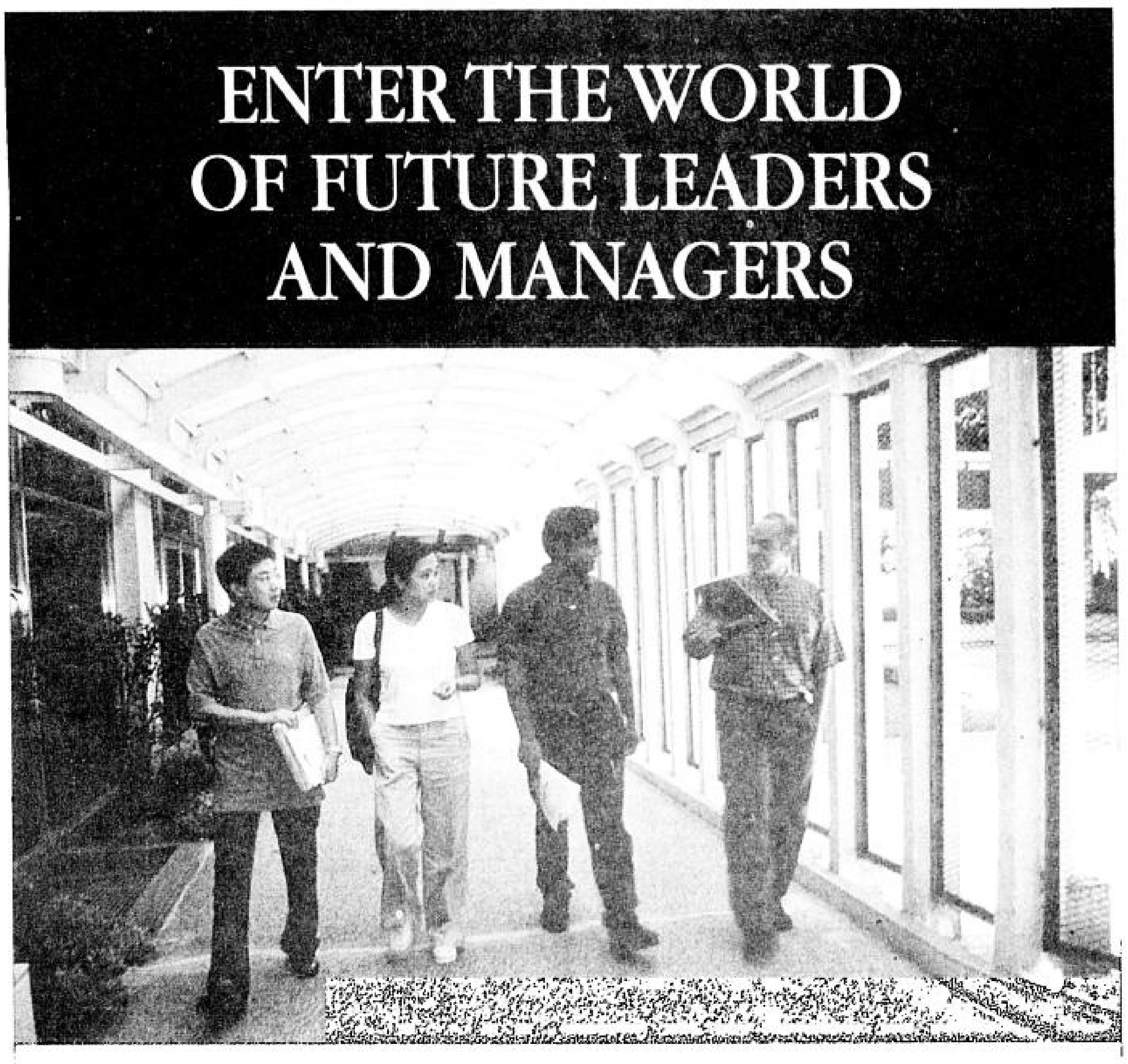
The incumbent party list representatives also lambasted the Comelec for accrediting Jeep, which was used as a "propaganda" mechanism by Estrada when he was campaigning in 1998.

Rosales said the Comelec should have been "very careful and discerning about the nature" of the groups applying for accreditation.

"It seems like if you have an organization and the financial capability to carry on a campaign, you get the approval from Comelec," said Bayan Muna chair Satur Ocampo

"The basic objective of having representatives from the marginalized and underrepresented sector is lost," added the former spokesperson of the National Democratic Front.

The party list groups are inclined to form a bloc in the next Congress to challenge the powerful blocs in the House of Representatives composed of traditional politicians



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Enrile warns of AFP split

SENATOR Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday maintained that some battalion commanders and other lower-ranking officers have confirmed that there is division within the military adding that ignoring the problem could spell trouble for the Macapagal government.

Enrile, a former defense secretary who served the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and former President Aquino, said that this happened during his time when generals kowtowed to the "person in Malacañang" but still revolts broke out.

"Don't ever think that the soldiers of this country are robots. They are thinking persons, especially those below—the level of sergeants, lieutenants, captains and majors. They're close to the ground, close to the people. They know the feelings of the people," he said.

"That is the danger because those at the top do not really know what's going on below. This happened to me. It happened during my time All the generals were kowtowing . . . to the person in Malacañang but that is no guarantee for control over the organization," Enrile, who had also been linked to some of failed coup attempts against Aquino, added.

Enrile said that he had been talking to officials—from battalion commanders down to sergeants—and that these officials have confirmed that factionalism has started to become an issue.

The remarks came a day after Malacañang confirmed that there were rifts within the military organization and that it was these divisions that prompted President Macapagal to name former armed forces chief Angelo Reyes as the new defense secretary.

But for Enrile, naming Reyes as the new defense chief was the answer, pointing out that it was Reyes who broke the "chain of command" when he and other generals decided to withdraw support from ousted President Estrada at the height of People Power II.

"Now, the military is beset with problems of factionalism and fractiousness This was sparked by Edsa Dos when Reyes and generals close to him committed the undisciplined act and turned their backs on their commander-in-chief," Enrile said in Filipino.

"In other words, they broke the chain of command Now, (there are disciplinary problems) within the military and it would take a long time to heal this . . My advice is—Don't take things for granted. Just continue to study and observe the situation, especially the generals. You are there at the top, listen to those below (you)," he also said.

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Tourism leaders back Dick

EMBATTLED Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon has received the support of the major players in the local tourism industry, even after department employees have been holding daily rallies against his leadership.

All 25 tourism associations in the country led by their presidents presented Gordon with a manifesto welcoming him to the Department of Tourism with "great enthusiasm and renewed hope."

The manifesto continued: "We declare our commitment to support and cooperate with the new secretary to achieve outstanding growth rates for Philippine tourism. We believe that his brand of leadership will make the difference in tourism.

"With tough competition out there, we cannot afford to lose time in restoring the confidence of the market in the Philippines," the tourism leaders added.

Gordon has been hit by controversy recently after DOT employees deplored his "high-handed" and "dictatorial" leadership style.

The employees resented Gordon's frank manner in telling to "shape up" after he berated some of them for the litter around the DOT premises and for the haphazard way the Philippine flag was raised at rites Monday.

Yesterday, the Partido ng Manggagawa, a militant party list labor group, joined the DOT workers union in their almost daily rallies against Gordon's "insulting antics" *Jerome Aning*

Desierto asks high court to reconsider plunder TRO

By Cathy C. Yamsuan
and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its extension of a TRO that is preventing him from filing plunders charges against deposed president Joseph Estrada.

The high tribunal extended on Tuesday its order barring Desierto from "resolving or deciding" at least six plunder cases against Estrada while the court is hearing the former president's appeal for reconsideration of a 13-0 ruling that affirmed his ouster.

The SC had ruled unanimously last week that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the legitimate president of the Philippines, and Estrada had lost his immunity from prosecution since he was no longer chief executive.

The high tribunal ordered a continuation of the status quo, following motions submitted by Estrada's lawyers.

Militant groups, however, blamed the Macapagal administration for the Supreme Court's decision upholding the temporary restraining order that they perceived to be favorable to Estrada.

Describing the administration as "useless and unreliable," the activists blamed the government for the court's ruling that granted a 30-day extension to the TRO that is preventing the Ombudsman from pursuing the cases against Estrada.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno said the Macapagal administration "was probably giving in to higher orders" to leave Estrada alone and maintain an atmosphere of economic and social stability in the country. The higher orders were supposed to have come from the United States government.

In a statement, KMU secretary general Elmer Labog said that in her determination to woo back foreign investors, President Macapagal has sacrificed the people's demand for justice.

"Clearly the Macapagal government thinks that by arresting Estrada there will be mayhem, so instead government keeps delaying his prosecution," Labog said.

"What she refuses to see is that the longer Estrada remains free, the shakier the political situation will be. There is growing disillusionment against her government's inability to mete out justice," he said.

Party list group Bayan Muna warned the Supreme Court to be on guard against what it called attempts by the Estrada camp to undermine the justice system of the country.

Satur Ocampo, Bayan Muna president, urged the Supreme Court to affirm its 13-0 ruling backing the legality of Ms Macapagal's presidency and its 9-4 decision against granting immunity to the deposed Estrada.

"Justice delayed truly is justice denied. This is what the Supreme Court is virtually doing by extending the ban on Estrada's prosecution. It puts to waste the people's struggle at Edsa and Mendiola," said Fr. Jose Dizon, convenor of Kairos Philippines.

Kairos, which is composed of Catholic bishops, religious and lay workers, was one of the official complainants in the impeachment case against Estrada.

"Estrada is merely buying time to keep himself from being imprisoned because the evidence against him is overwhelming. The ridiculous claim that he is still president is his only defense to shield him from charges," Dizon said.

Dizon said there could be no genuine healing in the country until justice is served on Estrada.

Estrada's lawyers, meanwhile, said the Ombudsman is prohibited by the Constitution from filing the same charges against the ousted president that were contained in the Articles of Impeachment against him, lest he be subjected to double jeopardy.

The lawyers, Pacifico Agabin and Cleofe Verzola, insisted that since Estrada's impeachment trial was aborted, he was technically acquitted of the charges brought by the prosecutors. *With Norman Bordadora*

DESIERTO

Reds say polls will be dirtiest, most violent ever

LUCENA CITY—Despite the impending resumption of peace talks and the participation of the Left in the forthcoming elections, the underground Communist Party of the Philippines has predicted that the May 14 polls will be the "dirtiest, most violent and most fraudulent

"Because of relentless conflicts among rival factions, the May elections will most likely be one of the dirtiest, most violent and most fraudulent in the country's history," the CPP said.

The communist movement has expressed the belief that although the elections may serve to consolidate the Macapagal-Arroyo regime through the victory of its candidates, "intense cheating and violence in the coming polls will definitely result in even fiercer conflicts among rival reactionary factions."

The declaration was embodied in the February edition of "Ang Bayan" in its editorial titled "Tasks of the revolutionary movement in relation to the reactionary 2001 elections." *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ang Bayan is the official organ of the CPP and published by its central committee.

The CPP also called for the intensification of more big and small tactical offensives against the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the police.

Satur hits black-prop

FORMER National Democratic Front spokesperson Satur Ocampo yesterday branded as black propaganda police reports linking communist–affiliated groups running in the May elections to the kidnappings in Metro Manila.

Ocampo, nominee of the Bayan Muna party list group, said the "conscious effort" to discredit the candidates identified with the leftist movement was an obvious attempt to stop them from gaining ground in the campaign.

In a forum at the Ciudad Fernandina in Greenhills yesterday, Ocampo said the military and other anticommunist groups were threatened by the "growing strength" of perceived left-leaning parties such as Bayan Muna.

"This is a reaction to the perceived growing strength (of our group), which has concrete basis, and identifying (us) with criminal activities is very convenient (for the military)," Ocampo said.

He said the "fear" that the candidates suspected of having connections to the Communist Party of the Philippines may actually make it to Congress and the local government prompted the military to engage in black propaganda against them.

The Philippine National Police earlier said the CPP was behind the kidnappings in Metro Manila to raise electoral funds for its candidates.

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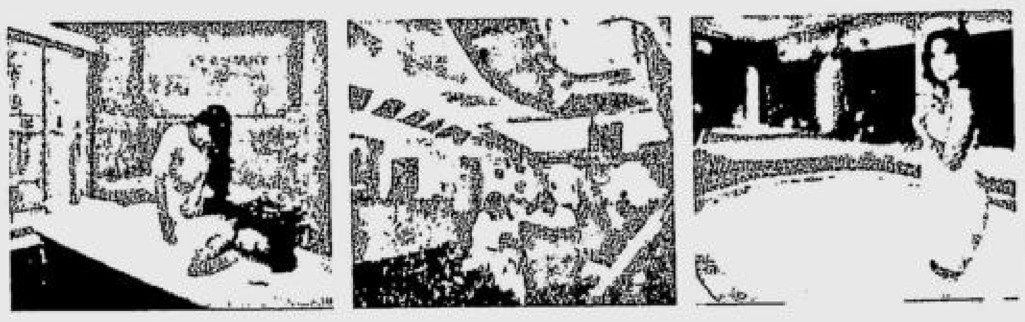

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Unsafe

EDITORIAL

CHAIR Dante Lantin of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board is threatening to bring to court operators of public utility vehicles and revoke their franchises unless they pay the appropriate compensation to victims of accidents. All passengers of public transport vehicles are supposed to be insured for P50,000 in case of death and P12,500 in case of injury, Lantin reminded the operators after 25 persons were killed in two horrifying vehicular accidents Monday.

In the first accident, the driver of a Manila-bound cargo truck tried to avoid hitting another vehicle that cut into its lane in Bocaue, Bulacan, but lost control of his vehicle at around 1:30 a.m. The truck crossed the grassy island dividing the south-bound from the north-bound lanes of the North Expressway and then rammed into a passenger bus. Seven people were killed on the spot, while four others died in the hospital where they had been taken for treatment.

The second accident happened at daybreak in Parañaque when a fuel truck bound for Cavite went out of control on Coastal Road, hitting five passenger jeepneys and running over several people who were waiting for a ride. Witnesses said the truck's fuel tank exploded when it hit the first, raining fireballs as the truck plowed into the four other vehicles. Eight of the victims were burned so badly that no one knew their identities as of yesterday.

In a country where tragedies happen with uncanny regularity on land, air and sea, these two accidents would have gone unremarked were it not for the fact that they occurred on the same day. But such was their impact that even President Macapagal felt it necessary to express sadness over the twin tragedy and order an investigation into the causes. "The loss of innocent lives could have been avoided had everyone concerned observed proper road safety precautions," Ms Macapagal said.

While the President said nothing unexpected, at least she didn't talk nonsense like Lantin. With 25 people lying dead, eight of them burned beyond recognition, all Lantin could think of was how much money the victims or their families should be getting. Apparently it never occurred to him that maybe, just maybe, there could be something wrong with the way his agency approves the applications for franchise of operators of trucks and passenger vehicles or the way the Land Transportation Office issues licenses to drivers.

It is common knowledge that among the various modes of travel, land transportation is the most dangerous by far. A look at the vehicles plying our streets and highways, especially trucks and passenger buses and jeepneys, should convince anyone that the risks are multiplied many times over in our neck of the woods. If the LTO doesn't give a hoot about whether the license plates on vehicles are torn, defaced, faded or even improvised, how can anyone feel sure that the vehicles bearing those licenses are road worthy? As for the LTFRB, how many times has it revoked the franchises of certain bus companies involved in too many accidents or found to have violated the terms of their franchise, only to give them back after a while?

Anyone who has driven around Metro Manila or anywhere in this country reaches one conclusion: Nobody takes road safety seriously. Not the various regulatory agencies and not the traffic enforcement bodies. It seems that everyone has forgotten that transportation agencies are there not to make money but primarily to ensure that anyone who travels will arrive at his destination safe and whole.

The final blow

FOREIGN COMMENT

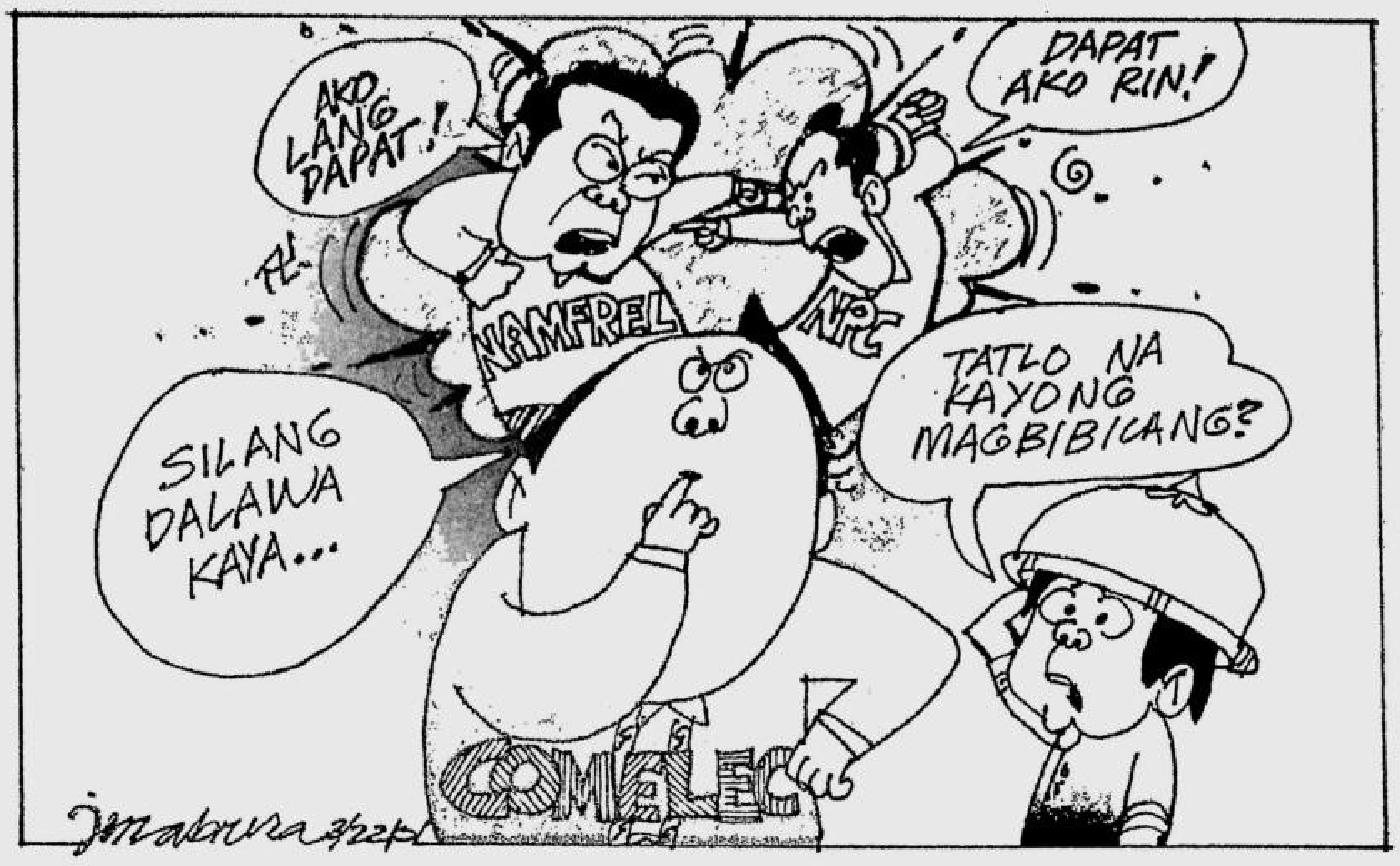
WHAT should not have happened has happened. The virus crossed the English Channel into France and struck the continent.

Immediately the United States, immune for 80 years, put a ban on all European meat, sparking off what may be a new commercial war. Now foot-and-mouth risks bringing European agriculture to its knees.

The strategy adopted by Britain and Europe was unsuccessful.

If all the of the infected animals in Britain were put down, the epidemic—with an incubation period of 15 days—would have declined and the risk of exporting the disease minimized. Instead animals from Britain carrying the still-incubating virus were exported to France.

For now Europe is resisting pressure for mass-vaccinations of animals because of the costs involved. The animal industry must continue its implacable cycle—birth, fattening, slaughter. But the United States' decision could be the final blow in this economic disaster. *La Repubblica (Rome)*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Why registration in barangays, not in precincts?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE LATEST news from the House of Representatives is that it supports a proposal of the Commission on Elections to hold the special registration of voters on April 10 and 11, or one month before the elections, after saying previously that there was no more time to hold it. But, more important, the Comelec wants the registration to be held in each barangay, not in the precinct. I think the Comelec is still trying to dodge the work. It is perhaps trying to pass on some of the work to the barangays.

Former Comelec Chair Ramon H. Felipe Jr., whose learned comments on special registration of voters we have reproduced here several times, said in a faxed statement that this is worse than the standby authority of the Comelec under Sec. 29, RA 6646, and Sec. 28, RA 8436 to hold such special registration without need of any congressional action.

"The Barangay has no Board of Election Inspectors, which is on the precinct level only," said Felipe. "Another problem is that registration of voters is more time-consuming than voting on election day, and centralizing the registration in a barangay, comprising a wide area and many precincts, may result in failure to register many applicants.

"However, if Congress and the Comelec want to do it the hard way, instead of just following the established procedure in Sec. 126, et seq., BP 881, otherwise known as the Omnibus Election Code of 1985, so be it!

"Meanwhile, the clock ticks on," continued Felipe. "As of today, the Comelec has already lost two precious weeks or 14 days. It will continue to lose more until congressional action is finalized and implemented."

Another expert on election laws, lawyer Romulo B. Makalintal, sent a comment blaming our lawmakers for the rise of political dynasties as discussed in this column of March 1.

"Since the ratification of the 1986 Constitution which restored our Congress, our lawmakers did not seriously consider passing a law to implement this constitutional provision on political dynasties," said Makalintal. "Section 26, Article II of the Constitution is very clear in that the State prohibits "political dynasties as may be defined by laws." In other words, unless a law is passed defining the scope of political dynasties, the said constitutional provision will continue to be a mere scrap of paper and politicians will continue justifying themselves in fielding their wives, children, brothers and sisters into the political ring as there is no law prohibiting them from doing so. Not even a sense of *delicadeza* could prevent them from taking advantage of the lack of a law prohibiting political dynasties. *Kapal muks* seems to be the rule of the game."

Worse, instead of passing a law banning political dynasties, the politicians in Congress even encouraged more of them by passing RA 9006, otherwise known as the "Fair Election Act of 2001," which was signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last Feb. 12, continued Makalintal.

RA 9006 actually lifts the political ad ban but, out of nowhere, its repealing clause provides that Section 67 of the Omnibus Election Code is repealed. This section provides that an elective official running for a position other than the one he is presently holding shall be considered automatically resigned from office upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy.

Because of such unexplained "repeal" of this Section 67, Makalintal explained, a mayor running for congressman in the May 14, 2001 elections continues to be a mayor until the end of his term. So with a barangay captain who runs for mayor or higher position since the term of a barangay official ends in 2002.

"The said 'repeal,'" continued Makalintal, "could encourage a politician, says a senator whose term will end in 2004, to run for governor in his province with his wife or relative running as vice governor. If both of them win the elections, the senator may not serve as governor and will just let his wife assume the gubernatorial position as he goes back to the Senate since he was not considered resigned as senator when he ran for governor.

"Thus, instead of eradicating political dynasties in our country, our lawmakers strengthened the establishment of these dynasties with the sudden and unexplained repeal of Section 67 of the OEC. I wonder if President Macapagal was fully informed of the political implications of such repeal when she signed into law RA 9006?"

* * *

A Dr. Kamal Farag of the Makkah Clinic in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, who read this column of Feb. 23 about "A better and cheaper way to perform heart surgery," wrote to ask if the heart surgeon I mentioned, Dr. Rommel Cariño is doing heart transplants. He wants to get his address.

I regret to inform Dr. Farag that although all sorts of heart surgeries are already being done in the Philippines, heart transplant is not one of them.

Dr. Cariño, if I am not mistaken, performs surgeries at the Philippine Heart Center for Asia, with address at East Avenue, Quezon City. He may be contacted there.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

The luck of ideas

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

NAPOLEON often said that he preferred a lucky general to a good one. What, one wonders, would he have thought of the new administration's luck?

The problems facing the new administration are formidable indeed. It is no wonder that the President has lost considerable weight in barely two months. That these have not yet fully caught the attention of the nation can be attributed to three factors: euphoria over the peaceful resolution of our political crisis in January, continued concentration on the issues surrounding Erap and that triennial national diversion called the May elections. Yet sooner rather than later, we will need to replace a focus on political rhetoric with governance.

After staffing the new administration—or better, before it—the primary task is to inventory the issues that need to be addressed. The budget deficit of anywhere between P145 billion and P225 billion is the biggest drag on economic confidence. The proposed solutions range from the purely symbolic (not buying a new presidential limo despite the fact the current one stalls and once stranded the visiting President of Turkey to the horror of his security escorts) to ill-drafted and bureaucratic administrative orders (DBP now needs specific presidential permission to hire a new teller, say, in Tawi-Tawi even if the result is bigger profits) to shamelessly political ones (the government has frozen maintenance and operating expenses even for essential agencies like defense but has fully released a pork-laden CDF in time for the elections).

One has to sympathize with the administration over the scale of these difficulties. New taxes are not a realistic political option. New borrowings on the general credit of the government after three successive years of budget breakers are unsustainable. The ceiling on government guaranties has been breached, requiring agencies to queue up for retired guaranties, causing serious delays in foreign-funded projects. The proposed seven-year bond float using Pagcor income as security simply advances to this year such income for the following seven years, creating even bigger budget problems the next and succeeding years.

Worse, when one removes debt service, salaries and local government sharing, there is little left to cut in the budget, let alone P225 billion. The crisis of investor confidence has not been resolved, hence the falling stock and foreign exchange markets. This is accentuated by the decline in our exports in January by 23 percent from the December figures: the US economy is weakening, especially in the technology sector, which is our top export product; Japan's economy, Finance Minister Miyazawa says, is "near collapse." And Japan is not only one of our largest trading partners but the biggest provider of aid. If it sneezes, we get Ebola.

This list goes on and on, each one deserving of a column, if not a book. Agriculture may be facing the threat of a new El Niño cycle. There is no place to put the garbage. We have not adjusted to globalization the way our neighbors have. Our educational system produces high school graduates who, it has been well said, cannot read their own diplomas. Overpopulation. Unemployment. The resurgence of crime, especially kidnappings. The unresolved and volatile issues concerning the CCP-NPA and the MILF.

All these would be daunting enough for the best government, even one with the foresight and political steel of Singapore's. But Edsa, both I and II, while they accomplished their declared aims of restoring democracy and accountability, respectively, also gravely weakened central government authority.

The events of January, in particular, have impaired the government's ability to make decisions in the face of any real opposition. The result is increased power of single-interest groups and powerbrokers (for instance, Jaime Cardinal Sin sought, and got, the right for Msgr. Soc Villegas to interview candidates for health secretary; now he wants the newly appointed censors chief replaced), the creation of a heckler's veto over action, and a government that is weakened most by the very groups that support it. Then there is the unfettered power of media to criticize irresponsibly. Is it any wonder that alone among all our peers in the region, the foreign ratings agencies have given us the bleakest negative ratings?

This litany of problems is far from exclusive. No foreign affairs issue is included nor are problems as varied as corruption, global warming and pollution, or electoral reforms. The scope and depth of these difficulties would sag the shoulders of an Atlas. But our political and economic leaders are barely acknowledging them.

Instead, the entire election is focused on the Erap issue. Legitimate though this may be, one wonders about how we will ever move forward if our political leaders do not have the courage to inform and educate our voters. Because we have, since 1965, focused on personality politics at the top, first of the Marcos vs. Aquino variety and then, since 1998, of the Erap vs. Gloria kind, we have blinked at addressing fundamentals.

Lyndon Johnson was fond of explaining in the '60s why the American South was left an economic backwater, and why it never got the kind of local leadership it needed. The problem, he said, was that elected officials didn't need to do anything in office. All they had to do, he said, was shout "Nigra! Nigra! Nigra!" every four years at election time in order to win. The local version, whether to cull favor or criticism, may be "Marcos" or "Cory" or "Erap" but the idea is the same.

Once the elections are over, the Macapagal administration needs to squarely address these festering issues if we are to have any hope of a solution. The transition by then will be long over. The promise of the end of politics-as-usual, so eloquently articulated in Edsa by the President, needs to be redeemed. Ironically, the best politics for 2004 is good governance and less politics beginning 2001.

The problems, bleak as they are, will not grow less bleak if we ignore them. But if we address them, we may have that one chance of success. Luck, as Napoleon also noticed, was often on the side of the general with the most divisions. Or in our case, ideas.

Educational system has to develop critical thinking

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE IMPORTANCE of television as a medium is being demonstrated anew in this campaign. Take the case of People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo. Unlike the other senatorial candidates, he has no posters or jingles, and goes around without any *alalays*, but from the looks of it he's headed for the top in the senatorial slate (it also helps, of course, that his name is in the tri-media every moment of the day, thanks to his famous namesake, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo).

Joker is being besieged everywhere he goes, especially by what has emerged as his special constituent: the students. Because he took on the toughest of the pro-Estrada lawyers, his UP classmate Estelito Mendoza at the Senate impeachment trial, the students now call him "Mr. Impeachment." When the students see him, they recognize his mop of white hair and hunched shoulders immediately, and they scream, "*Si* Impeach, *narito; si* Impeach." The old ladies and college kids kiss and hug him. People thrust scraps of paper into his hand, which read, "Joker, *magaling kang tao. Iboboto kita*" or "We will support you."

Joker now quips that when he goes around the country, he looks at the places where TV antennas abound, and says to himself, "*Ayos na ako dito.*"

* * *

Because he practiced what could be called "macho politics" at the Senate impeachment trial, on Joker's lap has fallen the task of exposing deposed President Estrada's shenanigans and how much he stole, reported at last count to be about P13 billion. Of late, Joker has also attacked Puwersa ng Masa candidate Ping Lacson's human rights record. Of all the PPC senatorial candidates, it seems logical that Joker tackles the "dirty" job—as though it were an extension of his role as the prosecution's battering ram at the impeachment trial.

In this thankless job of taking on a deposed president who still commands some support among the *masa*, it does help to be a popular candidate who, from the way things look, would land among the top. Yet taking on Erap and now Lacson single-handedly could cost him some votes. But he doesn't seem to care that much, unlike some of his colleagues who seem too paranoid about their standing, and prefer to stay on the "safe" side of issues.

* * *

I spoke to Joker about this as the campaign entered into the halfway mark, and he mused about how Ninoy Aquino was jailed for over seven years on trumped-up charges. What he seemed to be saying was, what's a few notches down compared to what Ninoy suffered? What seemed to disturb Joker more is an attitude that he perceives in the course of campaigning, where some people are actually glad that Estrada was removed from office, but they don't feel he ought to be prosecuted and jailed anymore. It's as though having been removed from the presidency was punishment enough. To Joker this is "a distorted sense of values."

* * *

I agree with Joker. This is all part of the failure of our people to intellectualize crime and punishment in this country. We approach everything in an emotional manner, through the heart and not the mind, which is why *awa* for Erap prevails in some of us, even though the way he played around with the people's money, e.g., the pension funds, he obviously had little heart for their welfare. This is also the reason that the Marcoses have been able to get away with their misdeeds and even got elected.

This failure to intellectualize crime and punishment, in turn, can be traced to the failure of our educational system to teach many of the people to be analytical and discerning—to develop the intellect. This emotional approach is also reflected in the way we regard religion: for the El Shaddai group, for instance, it is all singing, dancing and "feeling," while doctrine, which is straight to the mind, takes the backseat and ignored. It is obvious that education has to be thoroughly revamped, in order to develop critical thinking.

* * *

Lawyer Edwin B. Bellen of Caloocan City sent me a copy of a "Pledge of Integrity" which was adopted by participants in a recently concluded seminar workshop held at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City. This pledge, in turn, was adapted from Jake Anderson of the Citizens Against Government Waste in Washington, D.C. Bellen suggests that this be recited by every Filipino, "especially by the new appointees in government." Here goes:

"For my country's sake as well as my own, I make this public pledge. For the character of each citizen will determine the character of the Philippines.

"I will treat as a sacred trust any public funds that pass through my hands. Tax revenue does not belong to the officials who spend it but to the Filipino people who produce it.

"I will not demand entitlements I am not entitled to. Government benefits are to be treated not as manna from heaven but as charity from the taxpayers.

"I will support a national effort to stop running up the national debt. It is immoral to charge our living standards and government services to our children.

"I will live on what I have, not on what I want. Squandering money today at the expense of tomorrow will increase the cost and multiply the misery.

"To reverse the Filipino decline, I will consume less, work harder and produce more. I will shun the gambling table and any game of chance.

"I will always strive to live a simple and righteous life and will constantly remind myself that wickedness was never happiness.

"I will perform honest work for my wages and pay honest wages for another's work.

"If it isn't right, I won't do it. If it isn't true, I won't say it. If it isn't mine, I won't take it."

Women of the 'Tuna City'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"OUR offices are small and hard to find," said Rebecca "Bec" Albiso of the Kapatiran Women's Support Center. "But we would be so honored if you could visit and talk with the women." So it was that right after the public consultation with women at Gen. Santos City, we piled into a DPWH service vehicle and drove to Sta. Monica Subdivision in Barangay Calumpang. Our party included Abanse! Pinay Rep. Pat Sarenas, Abanse! Pinay Davao chair Iris Melliza, who is also president of the Holy Cross College, and Susan Calasagsag of Representative Sarenas' office.

We drove through a city of new and impressive architecture, wide concrete roads and the unmistakable signs of an economic take-off. But as soon as we veered off the highway, we bounced through a wide dirt road, raising clouds of dust that had already colored the tiny wooden huts by the roadside a uniform shade of buff and beige. Finally, we stopped by the gate of a tiny dwelling with a pocket garden, distinguished only by the violet crepe paper ribbons that hung from window sills and the fronds of a small coconut tree. This was the Kapatiran Women's Support Center, GenSan chapter, and the ribbons were remnants of their celebration of International Women's Day.

* * *

BEC and the other Kapatiran staff, Melanie "Lanie" Gonzales, had trained at the Kapatiran office in Rosario, Cavite (thus its original name, Rosario Women's Center). Last year, though, they decided to relocate to GenSan the better to reach the thousands of young women migrant workers who come flocking every day to the country's "Tuna City" to work in the tuna canning factories.

I sit on the board of trustees of Kapatiran, founded by my good friend and "sister" in Pilipina, Jurgette Honculada, but I must confess their work had remained mere words to me until I met the women of Kapatiran. Kapatiran seeks to meet the needs of young women workers, as well as of the women in their communities, by organizing them and embarking on common activities and projects.

Seated on mats and foam mattresses, the women, some of whom had brought along their toddlers, proudly recounted to us their many activities in the year since the Kapatiran office's founding. "We have had basic women's orientation seminars, discussions on community problems and even personal programs like shibashi (a form of meditation and exercise, like yoga) and basic accupressure," boasted Lanie.

If the funds are available, the women, but especially the older mothers, would like to undergo training in computer literacy. "The younger generation is leaving us behind," they complained.

* * *

THERE are more than 10,000 workers in GenSan's canning factories, 90 percent of them young women migrants from Cebu and other parts of Visayas and Mindanao. "Who recruited you? How do you know if there are jobs available here?" I asked the women workers. "No one, we just heard that the factories were looking for workers, so we traveled here," they replied. The young women find lodgings as boarders with poor families, which is why Kapatiran also works with the housewives who are in a sense the young workers' second mothers.

The women of the canning factories have a litany of work-related issues. One is the seasonality of their work, with work shifts and duties cut or stopped altogether as the supply of or demand for tuna waxes and wanes. "No fish, no work; no order, no work," is how the women call their state of employment. Most are also contractual hires, hired and fired on five-month cycles, many of them being forced to use assumed names to get around labor laws. "The trouble is that when we're using a false name, we lose all our SSS benefits," one points out.

Their work is also physically taxing, standing continuously for eight or even 12 hours if they're required to render overtime, and suffering from repetitive stress injuries.

"We'll never be able to open another can of tuna without thinking of you," Pat told the women. Indeed, it seems as if the economic growth which has made GenSan the boomtown of Mindanao has been built on the backs of young migrant women, women like those we met and bonded with one warm Sunday evening in GenSan.

* * *

MY CONDOLENCES, as well as those of all the officers and members of Abanse! Pinay, to the family of Jesusima "Manang Sue" Lumbera, committee secretary of the House Committee on Women. Manang Sue passed away yesterday morning at the St. Luke's Hospital.

Manang Sue was with our party during our sortie to Mindanao for a series of public consultations of the House Committee on Women, chaired by Representative Sarenas. During our dinner, hosted by Davao City Mayor Ben de Guzman at the Mercure Hotel Friday evening, Manang Sue complained of a slight fever and headache, saying it was probably a sign of rising blood pressure and a recurring urinary tract infection. It wasn't until after the public consultation in GenSan last Sunday, however, that Manang Sue, who had stayed behind at their lodging house because she wasn't feeling well, went to a clinic to have a urine test. The test disclosed that she had abnormally high levels of white blood cells, indicating a serious infection. The doctors at the clinic recommended that she check-in at a hospital upon her arrival in Manila the next day.

Upon her arrival, however, Manang Sue decided to check up on her five children first before proceeding to St. Luke's. It was here where she passed away two days later.

News of Manang Sue's passing came as a shock to all of us who had been with her in Mindanao, and I'm sure to all of her co-workers in the House. We will always remember with gratitude her tireless work in behalf of women.

* * *

For comments, etc., send e-mail to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Handbooks on campaign politics

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"WE shook hands. My inability to recall that particular moment more precisely is disappointing: the handshake is the threshold act, the beginning of politics. I've seen him do it two million times now, but I couldn't tell you *how* he does it, the right-handed part of it—the strength, quality, duration of it, the rudiments of pressing the flesh. I can, however, tell you a whole lot about what he does with his other hand. He is a genius with it. He might put it on your elbow, or up by your biceps: these are basic, reflexive moves. He is interested in you. He is honored to meet you. If he gets any higher up your shoulder—if he, say, drapes his left arm over your back, it is somehow less intimate, more casual. He'll share a laugh or a secret then—a light secret, not a real one—flattering you all that well and you've just told him something 'important,' something earnest or emotional, he will lock in and honor you with a two-hander, his left hand overwhelming your wrist and forearm. He'll flash that famous misty look of his. And he will mean it."

The book and movie "Primary Colors," open with those words. The book was written by someone who simply wants to be called Anonymous. The words are uttered by the young, bright idealistic campaign strategist of a presidential contender played by John Travolta. Henry Burton (played by Billy Bob Thornton) is a former congressional aide of mixed race and the grandson of a famous civil rights legend and he's looking for something good to do. Jack Stanton (Travolta) hires him and what follows for him and the campaign team is a learning process in modern electoral politics that "in dramatic power, humor, psychological acuity and insider knowledge beggars a hundred textbook and a thousand lectures."

Last year I received a book titled "Campaign Politics" from its authors when impeachment and not elections was the season's topic. I browsed through it and wondered whether those who would be running in the 2001 elections had gotten hold of the book. I thought they would avoid a lot of wasted efforts and money as well as a bad press if they followed some of the points raised in the how-to book.

The book was written by Ma. Lourdes N. Tiquia and Ma. Irene R.M. Cariaga who both have campaign experience in both national and local elections. They have also worked in the legislative branch of the government. Both studied Public Administration at the University of the Philippines where Tiquia now teaches. Tiquia had worked in the US Congress as a US congressional fellow.

The book is easy to read and starts off with the theory of campaign politics defined as "both the science and art of persuasion and manipulation." But the authors believe that there should be more emphasis on persuasion which would rely more on strategies, "on the nuts and bolts of methods and gimmicks that influence voting choices."

Other topics tackled are the profile of the Filipino voter, trends in the past elections, the decision to run, the campaign team, the campaign organization, the message, the strategies, the campaign plan, technologies, the victory ride and the act of conceding.

But before those main chapters, the book first provides the reader with a list of DON'TS or NEVERS—for the candidate, the campaign manager, the fundraiser, the media officer, the scheduler and the researcher. Having these before the meatier part of the book was a wise because the list is not only instructive, it is entertaining as well.

For example, a candidate should never lie about his/her record. "Before attempting to rewrite history, keep in mind that your opponent's staff probably possesses a thorough file on you. Any distortion may prompt a call to an enterprising reporter and destroy your credibility." So if you are an alien or has a history of satyriasis, be ready. Presume you would be found out or get *buking*.

Be able to say in less than 25 words your reasons for running. For chrissakes don't stammer in front of reporters. I have this severe aversion for priests who give meandering homilies during Mass and this should apply to candidates on a sortie. Say it in five minutes. If you cannot say it in five, you have nothing to say to me. I remember what the features editor would say whenever I asked, how long? You know when to stop, she would say.

Here are some NEVERS for candidates (Tiquia and Cariaga provide reasons): Forget about your family. Lie about your record. Manage your own campaign. Leave fundraising to others. Travel with a large entourage. Be your own scheduler. Attend a sensitive meeting alone.

And the campaign manager? Never...antagonize the candidate's spouse. Whatever you do, the authors say, under no circumstances should you irritate the spouse or an immediate family member. The person sleeping with the candidate is more likely to have the candidate's ear. Never hire a staff without clear responsibilities. Never leave confidential information on your desk. And more.

The media officer is a biggie in the campaign. One mistake could create a mess that would be hard to undo. This I can say: journalists have long memories. Some nevers: Leak to the same source repeatedly. Go over a reporter's head (and complain to the editor). Be afraid to demand access to the candidate. Answer a question when you are uncertain of the answer. (Who was it who said, answering without saying anything—that's politics.) Complain repeatedly to reporters about their stories.

But worth remembering are the words of guntoting Kathy Bates who plays Travolta's hippie-generation friend and throws all her weight for his campaign. Some of her last words before she exited dramatically to the next world: "Our job is to make it clean because our ideas are better." Wooow. Too bad she killed herself but Travolta took her advice and roller-coastered to victory.

Passport, please

YOUNGBLOOD

Varsha S. Daswani

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I DON'T like listening to people when they reminisce about the countries they've been to and the experiences they've had. I'd rather do the talking myself. I haven't been to a lot of countries, true, but I think talking about a certain city I've been to—even if it is as near as old Manila—is more significant to me than my friend's rendezvous in Amsterdam. I hold the cities of the world in great awe and I love the traveling experience. Yes, even the bureaucratic procedures at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the stale food the airlines serve.

Those who have traveled enough or get airsick would not be able to relate. But I guess I happen to love airplanes and the circumstances surrounding them so much because I love the sickening feeling of leaving something comfortable behind and not knowing what lies ahead. Or leaving something that was known for a period of time and going back to the comfort of home. Though these experiences are thrilling in themselves, there is yet another complication to the scenario that would make it horrifically complete: traveling alone. Or at least flying alone.

At age 15, I was given that opportunity. A mere junior high school student would be flying halfway across the world—alone. From Manila to New York with a stopover in Narita, Japan, as I remember the goose bump-filled experience, I can't believe my parents allowed me to do that. I don't think I would give my teenager that liberty when I have kids.

I was to meet my dad in the Big Apple. I had previously never been out of Asia, never flown alone. Imagine this: my parents have never allowed me to take a jeepney alone in Manila—ever. But they allowed me to travel thousands of miles on my own! Of course, my mother had apprehensions. She didn't know if I could handle it. She thought tha way because she herself would never take it given the opportunity. I personally didn't really doubt what was about to happen. Sure, my brothers had to explain and make me memorize the steps before I could get o that airplane (check-in, airport tax, immigration, boarding), yet I wa actually excited to see the world for myself.

I dressed up for the occasion. Back in 1995, a black and white plai pantsuit worked quite well. I even wore the matching vest! I had m jacket, passport, money, ticket, luggage, cross stitch material and crossword puzzle book all ready. I waved goodbye to my two overprotectiv (just concerned, they say) brothers and very jittery mother. She was practically in tears as I kissed her, and I had to incessantly remind her that would be gone for only three weeks. I wonder how she would have fe if I was going on a plane that would take me away forever?

The moment I went through the initial security check, I felt that sig of relief and choke of anticipation. I think I was able to check in m luggage properly. I even got the aisle seat I wanted. There I was, read to fly! Ready...wait, I just left my passport with the airline lady. Whoop quite a big booboo there. "Next time, remember, you're supposed to ge your passport back, okay? That's important!" I reprimanded myself i shame as the receptionist hollered for me to get it back from her. I swor to myself not to foul up the trip—and believe you me, from that time o I hung on to my documents as tightly as I could. Even when I'd sleep i the plane later, I'd make sure that my hand was clutching my envelop and my carry-on bag on the floor was firmly squashed between my fee

Of course, though I got hold of my responsibilities, I could never g hold of my hunger pangs. Little did I know that you're supposed t restrain yourself from eating before getting on the flight. No, it's n because I get airsick. (Thank God that's never happened to me.)

I never knew that airline food could be so heavy. Well, heavier aft that hotdog and soft drink at the lounge. I ate before boarding, sle through the flight, got hungry when we stopped over at Narita, and at uh-huh, during the stopover. By the time I got to New York, my stomac (as well as the rest of my body) had unwillingly adjusted to the tir difference. At least that way, I didn't suffer from jet lag and was able face New York head on.

You know how your mother always tells you not to talk to stranger And well, you believe her, but you also know she's not always righ Mama told me to keep to myself during the flight and I thought I woul But the guy on my continuing flight to America seemed too smart ar ethical to be a criminal. So when he asked me how old I was, I a swered. He was nice enough, a physicist, I think. Working all throug out the trip, his black, bushy beard and slightly oversized figure wou get in the way of his intellectual fervor. Those days, a laptop was still rare sight and I enjoyed seeing him type away.

The stopover in Japan gave me another superficial thrill. Sure, I w actually in Japan but I got to walk only a few yards of it. I was too scar of wandering away and never finding my way back. If I remember rig my mother had instructed me to sit right outside the boarding gate of n plane and just wait patiently. I think she got the better of me there, a though I was a tad bit more adventurous and I proudly remember havi walked a few steps away from the gate.

After boarding the flight, I thought I had finally settled into my se until I saw that the second plane's features and accommodations we quite different from the first. I had to remaster the amenities and capac ties of my seat again. Little did I know that the button I had just press fervently was for the stewardess, that is, until she came rushing over ask me if something was wrong. I said no and went back to my busine of figuring out my seat.

Flying is amazing, I assure you, and what better way to do it th alone. I liked having the world to myself for once and having the ind pendence to choose and move.

The captain brought me back to reality and announced that we wou be landing in La Guardia Airport soon, and I excitedly filled up my imn gration form. I was finally about to land in America! Better, I was to la alone! Of course, my brothers could not prewarn me about the steps take in the New York airport, so I did the smart thing and followed t other passengers out. I felt as though we were one throng of people wal ing toward freedom. The cold air gripped us and the temperature chapp our lips. It was winter in America but none of us lost step.

We fell in line at the immigration, and I nervously waited for n turn. The lady was an African-American, and I prepared a smile just f her. I was instructed by my dad to wish the officer properly, and I a swered her questions as best as I could. She was surprised I was flyi alone, and asked who I was to meet. I told her about Papa, that he w right behind those doors, ready to show me New York. She probab understood the anticipation in my voice. Attempting to befriend me, s told me to advise my dad to take me to the Rockefeller Center. N knowing what that was, she described it to me the best way she coul "Tell your dad to take you to the Rockefeller Center—the one with t big Christmas tree."

There I was, happy, tired and proud of my 15-year-old self—ready see that big Christmas tree, ecstatic to fly alone and survive to tell about it.

Varsha S. Daswani, 21, is an AB Communication senior at the Aten de Manila University.

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Backbone

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"TODAY," Nicanor Tiongson said at noon yesterday, "I submit my irrevocable resignation to the President as chair of the MTRCB because I refuse to be an instrument for the repression of freedom of expression."

In resigning, Tiongson indicted the "moral terrorists" led by one Sonia Zaldivar Ronda, a representative of the Catholic laity, and Msgr. Soc Villegas, a representative of Jaime Cardinal Sin, for mounting a "pharisaic crusade" against movies like "Live Show." He indicted Sin for meddling in the affairs of state and fomenting "religious fanaticism and fascism" in the land. He indicted President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for "succumbing to the pressures and political machinations of these ultraconservatives" instead of enlarging the spirit of democracy that brought her government to being.

"It is ironic," Tiongson said, "that the freedom of expression that liberated us from a corrupt and incompetent government will become the first victim of the religious bigotry that now threatens our democracy." He would have no hand in this. He was resigning.

A couple of weeks ago, in a meeting, Sin had railed against Tiongson for allowing "Live Show" to be shown. Shrugging off all his protestations, Sin had told him bluntly: "You should resign at once. You have no backbone."

Last Wednesday, Nicanor Tiongson did. And showed he had one.

What drove Tiongson, a mild-mannered owlishly bespectacled person who shuns the limelight and prefers the quiet comfort of scholarly pursuits, to court the attention of the world in these terms is a tangled tale of sleaze, lies and red tape, all courtesy of his tormentors. Tiongson was the universal choice of movie producers, directors and actors, and movie critics to head the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. He had all the credentials. He had been a director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines for years, he was an authority on Philippine cultural history, having written books on the subject, and he loved movies. More to the point, he understood movies.

The problem began almost as soon as Tiongson stepped into office. It began with the movie "Live Show," formerly entitled "Toro," Joey Reyes' haunting paean to human derelicts—the flotsam in fetid canals is a recurring metaphor—who are often reduced to performing live sex before an audience to survive. The religious mafia headed by Villegas and Ronda (whose name sounds like a bold star, but whom I am told nowhere looks like one by any stretch of the imagination) objected to its showing, calling it unmitigated sleaze. Not surprisingly, neither one had seen it, nor indeed any one of the cabal they belonged to, though they were all vociferous in condemning it. They wanted Tiongson first to stop its showing, and later, when it was already being shown in Metro Manila theaters, to recall it.

Tiongson said no on two grounds. The first was legal, or procedural. Reyes' movie had been approved by Armida Siguion Reyna's MTRCB as far back as the middle of last year, with a rating of PG-18. According to law, only the president could recall a movie that had already been approved by the MTRCB. The MTRCB head might not. For him to do so would be to invite a lawsuit that he could not possibly win.

The second was moral. Yes, moral. "Live Show" was not a skin flick. It was made by a responsible director for responsible reasons and produced responsible effects. (I have seen the movie and can personally vouch for that. You may quarrel in part about its aesthetics, but you may not quarrel at all about its morals. But I will leave my opinions there for later.) Like "Orapronobis," Lino Brocka's movie that had earned the ire of Manoling Morato and his own gang of moral terrorists, some of whom have passed on to the current one—"Live Show" had earned raves abroad, not least of them the Berlin Filmfest, where it became a toast.

But not one to take his duties lightly, Tiongson sought out the groups that were condemning "Live Show," presuming them to be merely misinformed about it. He made two remarkable discoveries. One was that not all the Catholic Church shared the sentiment. The Church's own movie review group consisting of priests, nuns and laity, called Cinema, thought "Live Show" was a serious film that merited serious attention and, more importantly, serious exhibition. Two was that the outcry, far from being widespread, was just coming from a small group who happened to live in the wrong century—they would have been more comfortable with the Inquisition. They were a small group, but they had the ear of Sin. That made them very, very powerful, very, very influential, and very, very destructive.

That became apparent in the fact that despite having been appointed MTRCB head since last month, Tiongson had not once talked to the person who had appointed him. He had repeatedly tried to make an appointment with the President of the Philippines, and he had repeatedly tried to get in touch with her on the phone, particularly because her approval of the new MTRCB board—he made his recommendations as soon as he received his appointment papers—was somehow being unduly held up. He was always told that the President was in the thick of things and could not be bothered. As it turned out, the President was being held up by a group of religious holdup people and their allies, or conscripts, in Malacañang. Proof of that was that Tiongson was scheduled to meet with the Ms Macapagal a couple of times, but was never told about it.

Meanwhile, Sin began writing Tiongson, demanding that he live up to his duties and recall "Live Show" from the movie houses. But Tiongson, after meeting with the various Catholic groups and been assured that they in fact deemed otherwise, and indeed after seeing Sin himself at one point and explaining his side to him, thought the worst was over. Not so, as he would learn dramatically in that fateful meeting a couple of weeks ago. Dismissing all his arguments as unacceptable, Sin waved him aside and told him to resign. He had no backbone.

Tiongson would say later he had never felt humiliated in all his life. "I didn't know a cardinal could sound like a fishwife," he said. I thought he insulted fishwives. I also thought, after hearing him say that, that "Live Show" was all about the humiliations the *kapit sa patalim* had to suffer to be able to survive. But none of their humiliations—including descending to the level of swine ("*baboy na kung baboy*") to perform sex before a panting crowd—could compare to the humiliation the head of the country's premier movie governing authority had just been made to suffer.

Some things even mild-mannered scholars who do not take their duties lightly may not take.

(To be concluded)

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Life's show

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

HERE we go again with the issue of pornography. Moralists have called on the President to fire Dr. Nicanor Tiongson as head of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. Tiongson was appointed only recently by Ms Macapagal to replace Erap appointee Armida Siguion Reyna. Moralists are upset because Tiongson has refused to pull out the film "Live Show"—which they have labeled pornographic—from the theaters.

The case of "Live Show" is disturbing for many reasons. First, as Tiongson points out, it was during Siguion Reyna's term that "Live Show" was approved, which means that if he withdraws the film then he violates the law. Not so, say our moralists, a reaction which only confirms the fears of foreign and local political commentators who say this People Power thing can lead to mob rule. Just because a new administration takes over doesn't mean you can just overturn all the decisions of the past administration. Even after Marcos fell, all his presidential decrees, including some truly odious ones, were kept intact.

Mind you, I am not comparing Siguion Reyna's approval of "Live Show" with Marcos' presidential decrees. And that takes us to my second point. What the moralists are calling for is censorship, which we threw out many years ago. What we have today is a classification system, which unlike censorship respects the ability of people to make decisions about the films they want to see. The R-18 (restricted to those above the age of 18) rating for "Live Show," moralists claim, was not appropriate but I suspect nothing short of a ban would satisfy the moralists.

The moralists are adamant about "Live Show" being smut, which suggests either of two things. Either they saw the film and were upset because they were titillated (as the definition of pornography goes) or, and I suspect this is more likely, they didn't see the film and presumed its contents from the title (which used to be "Toro"). Either way, it suggests we're dealing with very narrow minds. Or worse. As Tiongson points out, you have to be sick if you were sexually aroused by the movie.

The film revolves around the narrative of a toroista, someone who does live sex shows. The film doesn't pretend to lecture about the evils of these sex shows. Instead, it throws questions at you, about life and the society we live in. You want a film about morality? It's all there, from government corruption to social hypocrisy. As the toroista's mother, a former prostitute, lies dying, neighbors whisper, "It's a punishment. God is not asleep."

We hear the toroista wondering if life's a joke, or a test. Later in the film, he talks about our daily cycles: We wake up. We eat. We shit. We bathe. We work. We spend. We sleep. The live show, he says almost wearily, is just a matter of guts, *lakas ng loob*. His narration trails, becoming the background for a sex show and if you squirm in your seat it's not because of the sex show itself but because of what the toroista says about the Big Show called life.

What do the moralists hope to achieve by pulling this fine film out from theaters? They've claimed "lewd" films cause rape but I've written several columns citing the overwhelming evidence from scientific (emphasis on scientific) studies to show that pornography does not cause rape. "Healthier" values? I doubt it. Wholesome films like "Tanging Yaman" are fine but if that's the only fare we have to offer Filipinos, especially the young, then we are fooling them into believing that life is just a series of happy endings.

Unauthorized VCD copies of "Live Show" are already being sold openly. Ban the film from the theaters and you drive it underground to join the many X-rated films sold or rented under the counter, with a choice of Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, American and even Thai productions. For those into retro, there are even recycled local "pene" films produced in the 1970s and 1980s mainly starring George Estregan, yes, *his* brother. Vendors say they can't keep up with the demand and no wonder, each VCD costs as little as P70. (What, you paid a hundred?)

Most of these underground X-rated films are low-budget no-brainer flicks, showing nothing but "pumping" with women looking terribly bored, embarrassed or sometimes even distressed. But then that's what you get when you suppress the portrayal of sex in legitimate films.

Do you want to reduce the demand for smut? Then allow people access to films like "Live Show," and books on sex and sexuality (yes, including graphic presentations) that explain sex as more than pumping techniques. In the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries, where pornographic shops have been legal for many years, the main clients are not local people (who find the stuff boring) but tourists from other countries that ban or have strict restrictions on sexually explicit publications and films. That includes the Brits from across the English channel, Americans from across the Atlantic, and Filipinos from halfway around the world.

If politicians think they'll get brownie points by being anti-porno they're mistaken. Filipinos love the stuff and I don't say this in a demeaning way. It's a healthy curiosity that will fade with exposure (to the films). Ban films like "Live Show" and you promote the real smut. Raid the *tiangges* for the X-rated films and you increase the prices of the VCDs. Come to think of it, I wonder if some of these moralists have investments in the X-rated film industry.

Seriously, all this fuss over pornography is so misplaced. What's bringing this country to moral ruin is not pornography but pornocracy, a system where we're governed by political whores. You catch glimpses of that pornocracy in "Live Show"—maybe that's why the conservatives are so agitated.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

LETTERS

Running priest's stand on banks unchanged

I WAS quietly enjoying a rare moment of peace with my brother priests of Quezon City and our bishop, Ted Bacani, when I received an urgent call from Manila requesting me to attend a meeting. The third party called in behalf of Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura and PDIC chair Norberto Nazareno. The meeting was to take place in a restaurant in Manila. My first impulse was to say no. Something in my guts told me to "beware of traps." After some time of prayer and discernment, I decided to meet with the two gentlemen but no longer at the place of their choice. The meeting was to take place in the parish rectory of UP Diliman.

The two gentlemen came that evening of March 9, 2001. There were three other persons present: another priest, a lawyer and a lady. After a simple dinner of *pancit* and fish, our dialogue began.

Buenaventura and Nazareno took turns explaining the side of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. respectively. I sat intently and kept an open mind. I told them that the "Bank Run" was not only in support of Urban Bank but a call to restore the integrity and credibility of the Philippine banking system. The two gentlemen jokingly asked me to change the run from Bank Run to Bank Resurrection since that is what the run was all about. I did not give in. Bank Resurrection waters down the issue.

The banking system of this country needs rehabilitation badly. Erap bastardized our banks through his Jose Velarde accounts and similar accounts deposited in at least 29 banks. I assured the gentlemen that the Bank Run will go on and my campaign to cleanse the banking system as well. After two hours I knew I heard a piece of their side. I also knew that I was just gazing at the tip of an iceberg.

After that private meeting, my convictions about the bastardization of the banking system under Erap, in fact under Marcos to Erap, did not change. However, I was willing to deal with the two leaders of the banking system as gentlemen whose words I can trust and rely on.

Two newspaper stories though seem to have changed my esteem for the two gentlemen. In Victor Agustin's column ("Cocktales," PDI, 3/12/01), my supposedly private meeting with Buenaventura and Nazareno was one of his subjects. Worse, Agustin tags the meeting as "Running with the flow." Agustin explains, "before he could spring his first steps, Governor Buenaventura already met with the Diliman-based priest and a few nuns..." He continues, "like a new convert, Reyes was supposed to have seen the light.." For Agustin's information, there were no nuns in the meeting and I was not converted. The day after the Bank Run, another article, this time in BusinessWorld by Daxim L. Lucas, sounded almost like Agustin with his title, "Running priest 'retreats,' shifts to Urban Bank case." Lucas similarly explains, "unknown to many, regulators got an early wind of the run, prompting Mr. Buenaventura and Mr. Nazareno to meet with Father Reyes over dinner last Friday to explain the Urban Bank issue in detail. This made the running priest retreat from his original hard-line stance, modifying it instead to call attention to the plight of Urban Bank's small depositors." Lucas seems to miss the point or he may have been misinformed like Agustin. I have not changed my stance. The Urban Bank issue is just a part of the overarching problem of our banking system.

I have requested President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to create an Independent Banking Commission to investigate the entire banking system from Erap to the present. If this commission is created and able to pinpoint persons on either side—government and private—as culpable, then an impeachment or ouster run is in order!—**FR. ROBERTO P. REYES, Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

Balancing interests of water concessionaires and consumers

THIS is in response to a letter published in the March 15, 2001 issue of the INQUIRER wherein Ma. Teresa Diokno-Pascual of the Freedom from Debt Coalition accused me of "paving the way for the revision of Maynilad's contract...even agree(ing) to head the task force set up by the MWSS board to draw up the automatic Cera formula."

Pascual cannot understand that the MWSS Regulatory Office's mission is not only to monitor the performance of the concessionaires to see to it that they fulfill the terms of the concession agreements but also to balance the interests of both the concessionaires and the public so as to provide safe, potable, reasonably priced water to the greatest number within the concessionaires' service area.

Pascual also refuses to understand that as chief regulator, I report to the board of trustees whose directives I am duty-bound to follow. Therefore, there was no question of agreeing or not agreeing to head the task force created by the BOT.

It is unfortunate that she is of the opinion that I am "working hard to protect the interests of the concessionaires." The truth of the matter is that the MWSS-RO has been cautiously studying Maynilad's petition in its desire not to overly burden the public, considering the present economic situation where the exchange rate of the dollar against the peso has doubled. In fact, we have been accused of "foot-dragging."

Pascual states that Maynilad's cash flow problem is serious and needs to be addressed. Granted for the sake of argument that Maynilad may have had its shortcomings, what solution does she have in mind? The problem is here and there is no room for recriminations.

Again, Pascual oversimplifies when she says that the "MWSS can start looking for qualified operators in case Maynilad chooses to carry out its threat to walk away from its contractual obligations." This is easier said than done. Subjecting the West Zone concession to a bidding process at this time would take close to two years, as experience has shown. In the meantime, West Zone customers estimated at 4.5 million will not get the water service they need.

The fact that Maynilad has brought the matter to Malacañang disproves Pascual's charge that I am facilitating the amendment to the concession agreement. Now that Malacañang has spoken, I believe that further discussion on the matter is moot and academic.

I wish to acknowledge Pascual's abiding concern for the welfare of the people but regret that she expresses it at my expense.—**REX V. TANTIONGCO, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City**

Concerns of the common man

IN HIS article, "Edsa I and II: Lessons and differences," (PDI, 2/25/01), former Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel said: "Edsa I happened under martial rule and our goal was to regain our freedom and democracy. In the case of Edsa II...(all) we wanted was a good, honest and efficient government."

I disagree. Laurel saw Edsa I and II from the standpoint of the elite. He missed entirely the concerns of, to use the late President Diosdado Macapagal's phrase, the Filipino common man.

As far as the masses were concerned, Edsa I was a protest against what they called the US-Marcos dictatorship. As long as the Marcos rule was backed up by the United States—the World Bank-International Monetary Fund bankrolled it to the tune of $26 billion—President Marcos obeyed all of the WB-IMF's conditions. But after the restoration of "freedom and democracy," the Edsa I forces remembered only the Marcos dictatorship and forgot all about the US half of it. They ran after Marcos and his ill-gotten wealth, but completely overlooked the WB-IMF prescriptions which destroyed industries and jobs under Marcos and aggravated corruption.

With regard to corruption, the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant deal, which saw Westinghouse pay Herminio Disini $17 million to get the contract, immediately comes to mind. The WB-IMF ordered a policy shift from import substitution to export-oriented strategy of development that did in most of the industries established here from Quirino to Marcos. All post-Edsa I administrations did not address the US half of the dictatorship.

The hundreds of thousands who powered Edsa II were there not only for good, honest and efficient government, which was enough for the Makati Business Club and the rest of the elite, but to arrest and reverse the Estrada policies which have been destroying businesses and jobs in this country, resulting in the aggravation of unemployment and poverty. These policies were WB-IMF prescriptions that Estrada inherited from the Ramos administration. In fact, Estrada even tried to improve upon these policies by maneuvering to amend the Constitution to remove all distinctions between Filipinos and foreigners in our economy. That the so-called People Power II is crying not only for justice against Estrada but also for social transformation.

The Americans did not rally behind the move to impeach President Clinton because at the time it was raised, the US economy was prosperous and the Americans were happy. Filipinos rallied immediately behind the oust-Erap movement because the economy was depressed, with thousands losing their businesses and jobs as a result of the indiscriminate pursuit of globalization.

It is too early to judge how the Macapagal administration will finally read its mandate from Edsa II. In terms of Cabinet appointments, the message is mixed. There are unreformed globalists in the Macapagal Cabinet, but Bert Romulo is in finance and Leonie Montemayor is in agriculture. Romulo and Montemayor are not anti-globalists, but they are expected not to follow blindly WB-IMF prescriptions. Based on their track records, their first loyalty is to the Filipino people.

I support Laurel's proposal to amend the Constitution soonest to remove its "protector of the people" provision. Unless so amended, military adventurism will continue to have some claim, no matter how repugnant, to constitutionality.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Unit 301, Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

Protest against pooling of insurance firms

MEMORANDUM Circular 2001-001 of the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) took effect on March 1. This circular mandates a "two-group" system in the implementation of its passenger personal accident insurance program. This gives only two consortiums—the Philippine Accident Managers Inc. (Pami) and the Passenger Accident Insurance Consortium II (PAIC 2)—absolute control of the lucrative personal accident insurance market.

While it may already be considered moot and academic, we would like to nevertheless raise the following points in opposing the said directive so that the public may know. This is the reason why the Coalition Against Insurance Monopoly (CLAIM), an alliance of insurance executives, general agents and concerned consumers, was organized: to keep people vigilant on manipulations, monopolization and other dubious transactions.

The LTFRB went beyond its authority in coercing insurance firms to join a consortium even if it is against their own volition under the pain of losing their hard-earned accreditation. A simple memorandum circular from the government agency has no legal weight to curtail the rights of business firms to free enterprise.

It is against due process as it was haphazardly conceived and implemented without the benefit of informed discussion and decision.

The forcible formation of the consortium of insurance firms is unconstitutional, discriminatory and confiscatory, indirectly disenfranchising law-abiding companies from their business endeavors.

The pooling of insurance firms has always been a failure because of fiscal mismanagement as it is susceptible to fraud and corruption by the very people entrusted to manage it. This has been the case with previous cases of the Philippine Motor Vehicle Liability Pool (PMVLP).

The LTFRB's dubious and unjust moves are contrary to the spirit of transparency, fair play and good governance.—**ALFONSO V. MARQUEZ, convenor, Coalition Against Insurance Monopoly (CLAIM), 620 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila**

Chief censor . . .

(From page A1)

Ms Macapagal said Tiongson's resignation "saddens me" but stressed that she wanted her administration to keep its high "moral standard."

Presidential spokesperson Renato Corona noted that the public outcry against the film was overwhelming. "We have been deluged with telegrams, letters, and telephone calls from people who were angered by its public showing," he said.

Corona said the government was just using its police power to safeguard public morals in banning the film.

Fit for adult viewing

Ironically, movie reviewers of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) had found the sex film fit for adult viewing.

In its March 9 review, the CBCP's Catholic Initiative for Enlightened Movie Appreciation (Cinema) found "Live Show" fit for viewers 18 years old and above.

"The movie should be seen in its entirety. It's better if we look at the film in its wholeness before we judge it," Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite, vice chair of Cinema, said.

The film was good enough to gain entry at the Berlin Film Festival last year, but its subject remains taboo among conservative factions of the Catholic Church.

Film director Carlitos Siguion Reyna told reporters that "the bigger issue" beyond the controversy was "really the influence of the Church in the government."

Meeting with Sin

Tiongson, who met with Cardinal Sin last Saturday at the Archbishop's Palace in Mandaluyong City, described their meeting as a "traumatizing experience."

"What I saw was a political tactician, not a priest, because of the way he treated me.

"A priest is somebody who's supposed to be caring for another person and should respect you as a human being at the very least," Tiongson added. "I did not see that in him that day."

Tiongson said Cardinal Sin berated him in the harshest language that showed no respect for him as human being.

"He (Cardinal Sin) said I was not doing my job because I could actually recall 'Live Show' if I wanted to," Tiongson said.

"When I explained to him that it would mean breaking the law, he said I was clearly 'ineffective' and had no 'backbone.' That's why he was withdrawing his support for me."

Tiongson said Cardinal Sin mentioned the word "resign" four times during their conversation. "His tone was reeking with arrogance," he said.

Tiongson expressed grave concern that Ms Macapagal was succumbing to the pressures from and political machinations of the ultra-conservatives.

Change perspective

"The solution is for the President to change her perspective, but I don't think that's possible. So we cannot work together," Tiongson said.

He said he made several attempts to meet with Ms Macapagal after his appointment as MTRCB chief. "I was always blocked," he said.

"When we finally met last Tuesday, I asked her what she wanted me to do. She said 'It's up to you.' That contradicted her announcement on Tuesday that she would fire me.

"I did not seek this position. After it was offered to me, my first reaction was to turn it down. It was Joel Lamangan (a director), who convinced me to accept it. I was happy teaching at the University of the Philippines," Tiongson said.

He pointed out he had no problems letting go of the position. "In my whole life, I was never a powertripper or position seeker," he said.

Mario Hernando, a film critic who served as board member of MTRCB under Siguion-Reyna, said that Ms Macapagal should be enlightened on her decisions.

Armida Siguion-Reyna, who had approved "Live Show" during her tenure, felt saddened about Tiongson's resignation.

"He is a good person. He is capable of running the board and he has a great deal of respect for freedom of expression," she said.

Siguion-Reyna criticized the government for allowing the Church to meddle in government affairs.

"The film industry is on its way to self-regulation but we cannot move on because someone is always meddling," she said.

"For the MTRCB, they will choose someone whom they can dictate to and who will not contradict them. They don't need a censors' chief. They need a *muchacho* (helper)," she said.

Censorship cost presidency

"I wish to remind the President to go back to 1965 when (her father) then President (Diosdado) Macapagal lost the election to (Ferdinand) Marcos because of "Iginuhit ng Tadhana," which became a political issue because of censorship."

"Iginuhit ng Tadhana" was the life story of the deposed dictator. The movie, which starred Luis Gonzales as Marcos and Gloria Romero as Imelda, was banned by the board of censors during Macapagal's reign.

Ms Macapagal said that it was unfortunate that "our paths toward the advancement of this moral revolution sometimes vary from person to person."

"What matters more, however, is that we are in agreement about the high standards that we have to keep," she said.

"I am accepting the resignation of Dr. Tiongson, and I thank him for his stint, no matter how brief, in my administration," she said.

The President said she knew that Tiongson had the "best interests not only of the film industry but also of my administration at heart."

Bad timing

Father Sobrejuanite said Tiongson was a victim of bad timing.

"As we know, he (Tiongson) has no right or authority to revoke the permit granted to a film which was approved by the Siguion-Reyna board last year. Revoking the permit would violate MTRCB bylaws. That is a statement of fact," the priest said.

But the President has the sole power to review all the movies previously approved by the previous MTRCB, according to Sobrejuanite.

He said movie producers would have sued Tiongson had he ordered the movies pulled out from the theaters.

CBCP's Cinema film reviewers said that while the film "does contain considerably long footage of actual live shows, it is not about live shows. It is about depravity, as reflected in (the main character's) words of cynicism."

"Live Show" features Klaudia Koronel, Ana Capri, Hazel Espinosa and Paolo Rivero.

It was shown for two weeks in Metro Manila theaters.

Press Undersecretary Serge Rimonde said the ban on "Live Show" was "not censorship."

Also yesterday, the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo led police and interior department officials in symbolically destroying pornographic video materials. The event capped the national summit against pornography. ***With reports from Dave Veridiano and AFP***

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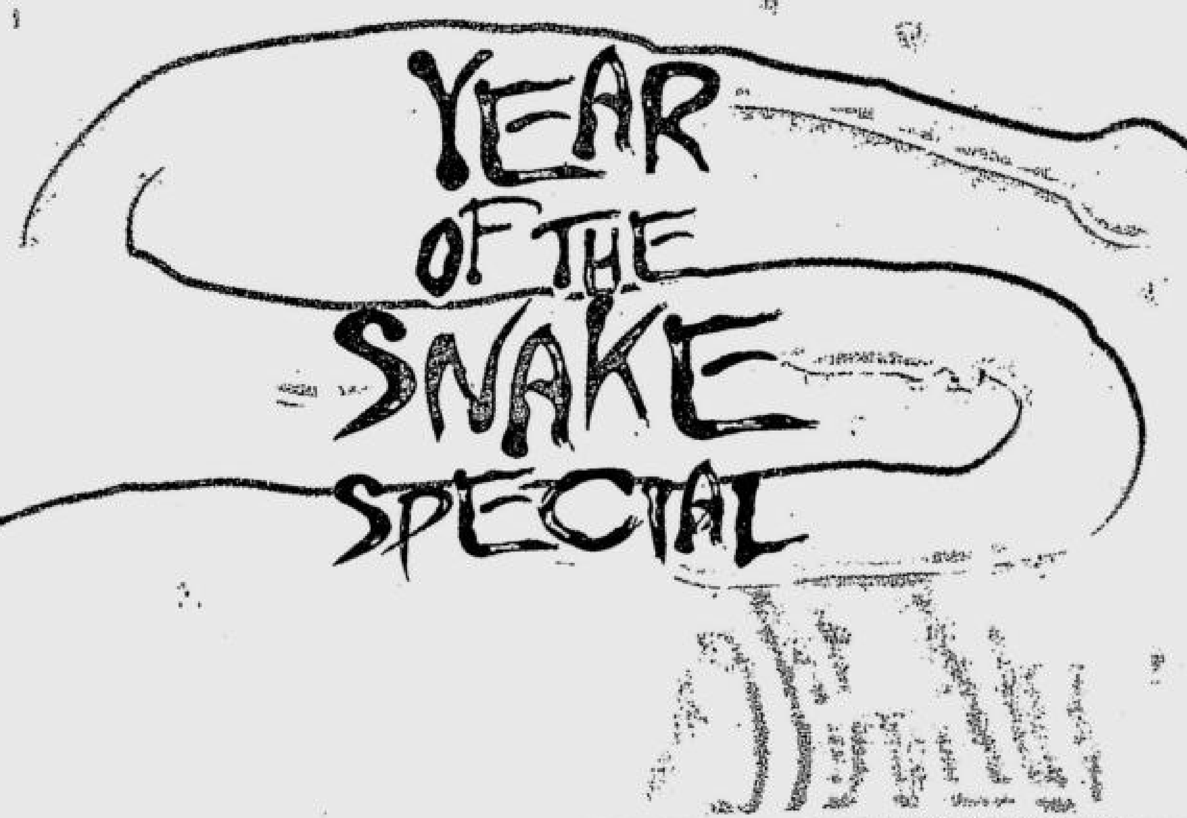
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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Water to become century's leading issue, experts say

SINGAPORE—Billions of people around the world face the threat of water shortages and many countries will soon be forced to rely on desalinated sea water, experts said at an international conference on water yesterday.

Water could become the leading economic and security issue in this century, some conference participants said.

Half a billion people in 31 countries suffered from water scarcity in 1995, Singapore's acting Environment Minister Lim Swee Say said.

"By 2025, about 3 billion people in 48 countries are expected to face water shortage," Lim said at the opening of the conference in Singapore.

"By the year 2050, this will increase to 4 billion people in 54 countries," Lim said, citing figures from Population Action International.

Water is quickly becoming the world's most important resource for economic development—and water shortages could heighten the risk of international conflicts, said Leon Awerbuch, chair of the two-day International Conference on Desalination.

"The 20th century was the century of oil. The 21st century will be the century of water," Awerbuch told reporters on the sidelines of the conference.

"Fossil energy has many alternatives," he added. "Water does not have an alternative."

Accelerating population growth and the spread of industry will cause worldwide demand for water to skyrocket over the next few years, Awerbuch said.

Desalination—the removal of salt from sea water—is the only practical solution to the problem, said Lim, Awerbuch and others at the conference.

Desalination was long considered too costly for widespread use. But new technology is quickly making the process cheaper, conference participants said.

Sea water can now be purified for human consumption and other uses at a cost of 70 cents per cubic meter, and the price should drop to 30 cents per cubic meter within three years, Awerbuch said.

The common method of desalting water through distillation—boiling water and collecting the condensed steam—is expensive because it requires a lot of energy to heat the water.

The cost can be lowered by combining desalination facilities with electrical power plants and using the plants' "waste heat" to distill water, Awerbuch said.

Newly developed stronger and thinner membranes for filtering water are also making desalination cheaper.

"Thinner membranes mean lower pressure and hence lower energy consumption," Singapore Environment Minister Lim said.

"Coupled with the enhanced durability of membranes, the cost of desalination has, and will continue to, come down," Lim said in his speech at the conference. *AP*

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Wahid vows to fight impeachment drive

JAKARTA—Inside a white-columned palace ringed by razor wire, President Abdurrahman Wahid pledged on Tuesday to stay in power and said a campaign to impeach him over two financial scandals was unconstitutional and doomed to fail.

"They cannot get rid of me," he said of rival political party bosses plotting his downfall as the sprawling Southeast Asian nation lurches from one crisis to another.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Wahid warned that the world's fourth most populous country, already gripped by economic gloom as well as ethnic and separatist fighting, might well break apart if he was forced out.

He brushed aside street protests against him and dismissed rumors of a rift with Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

"There are several thousand people who would like to see me dumped, but (the majority of) people don't like it," he said.

"My job as president is to protect the Constitution and the Constitution says that Indonesia must have territorial integrity . . . because of that I won't resign."

Almost blind, weakened by strokes and unable to walk unaided, Wahid, 61, is an unlikely political warrior. Even so, he is talking and acting tough. In the past few weeks, he has fired two ministers for disloyalty and threatened to dismiss a third.

Still, many analysts say his days in office are numbered and impeachment proceedings are likely to start within a few months.

Yet Wahid remains optimistic about his own survival, as well as the chance of his homeland shaking off chaos and becoming a solid democracy in less than a generation.

He said he has been lobbying lawmakers to disobey their party chiefs and vote against impeachment. Ultimately a majority in parliament would back him, he predicted.

WAHID

Wahid stresses he has done nothing wrong and denies he is implicated in two multimillion-dollar corruption scandals. In any case, he argues, according to the Constitution the president can be impeached only for treason.

"But I didn't do that," he said, adding he would soon present a detailed rebuttal of the allegations in parliament.

On Feb. 1, the legislature overwhelmingly issued a memorandum censuring Wahid, starting a long process toward his possible impeachment.

Wahid said Tuesday the memorandum was part of a political game by the parliament, which he once likened to a kindergarten.

"If it is studied by a logical man, a reasonable man, then they will see that there is no argument at all for putting me to the special session," Wahid said.

Even so, political leaders seem determined to push Wahid out. On Tuesday they agreed to draft a second censure memorandum, the last step before impeachment.

Wahid was elected 17 months ago, in the wake of the 1998 downfall of the former dictator Suharto amid protests and riots.

Many believed that the Muslim leader with a record of tolerance and bridge-building would soon roll back the excesses of military-backed authoritarianism, entrench democracy, end endemic graft and fix the moribund economy.

But things quickly soured as his fragile coalition government bickered and Wahid made increasingly erratic decisions.

Political reform has all but stalled and the International Monetary Fund has shelved a crucial loan program over concerns about a lack of economic change.

Suharto, now 79, has dodged prosecution for corruption on medical grounds. His son, Tommy, is a fugitive.

Wahid admitted Tuesday that both cases were symbolically important to the establishment of rule of law and promised that Suharto would soon undergo new health tests. Tommy would eventually be captured, Wahid said.

With the end of Suharto's rule, communal conflicts have exploded across the 3,200-mile-long collection of islands that make up Indonesia. Thousands have been killed.

Widespread unrest and political scandals have led to daily street demonstrations for and against the government. On Tuesday, about 1,700 people gathered at parliament in support of Wahid.

The president's fate appears increasingly reliant upon the support of Megawati, who controls the largest party and is the daughter of Sukarno, Indonesia's founding president.

Though some of her aides have called on the president to quit, she has remained silent.

"We are good partners," Wahid said. "On the main things, we see eye-to-eye."

He said she would be a potential head of state "if there is a constitutional change" or "through an election."

"But not now, because I am the president now," he said. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Macedonia lays down ultimatum

SKOPJE—The Macedonian Army started a 24-hour ceasefire at midnight yesterday after the government gave Albanian rebels in the Tetovo region an ultimatum to surrender or withdraw by the day's end yesterday. An announcement by the ministries of the interior and defense here said Tuesday that the Macedonian forces would refrain from opening fire for 24 hours to give the "terrorists" time to reply to the ultimatum. The Army would "only reply in case of an attack by the other side," the announcement said. When the ultimatum expired, "the security forces will pursue their attacks against the terrorist positions with all means at their disposal until they are wiped out, in the Tetovo region and along the northern border" of the country, it said. "The aim of these operations will be to chase the terrorists from our country and install peace on the whole of Macedonian territory." *AFP*

Blackouts hit California for second day

SACRAMENTO, California—An unseasonably warm first day of spring led to a second straight day of rolling blackouts across the entire length of the state in what Californians fear could be a preview of this summer. The electricity went out Tuesday in a half-million homes and businesses from San Diego to the Oregon state line. Air conditioners and refrigerators stopped humming, and traffic lights went dark along with computer screens. The outages began at about 9:30 a.m., lasting up to 90 minutes in any given neighborhood, and continued until 2 p.m. The keepers of the state's power grid ordered the blackouts after electricity reserves dwindled almost to nothing. Grid officials blamed reduced electricity imports from the Pacific Northwest, numerous power plants offline for repairs, and unseasonably warm weather. The mercury reached above 27 Celsius in Southern California and above 21 C in Northern California. *AP*

Taliban rulers ban New Year celebration

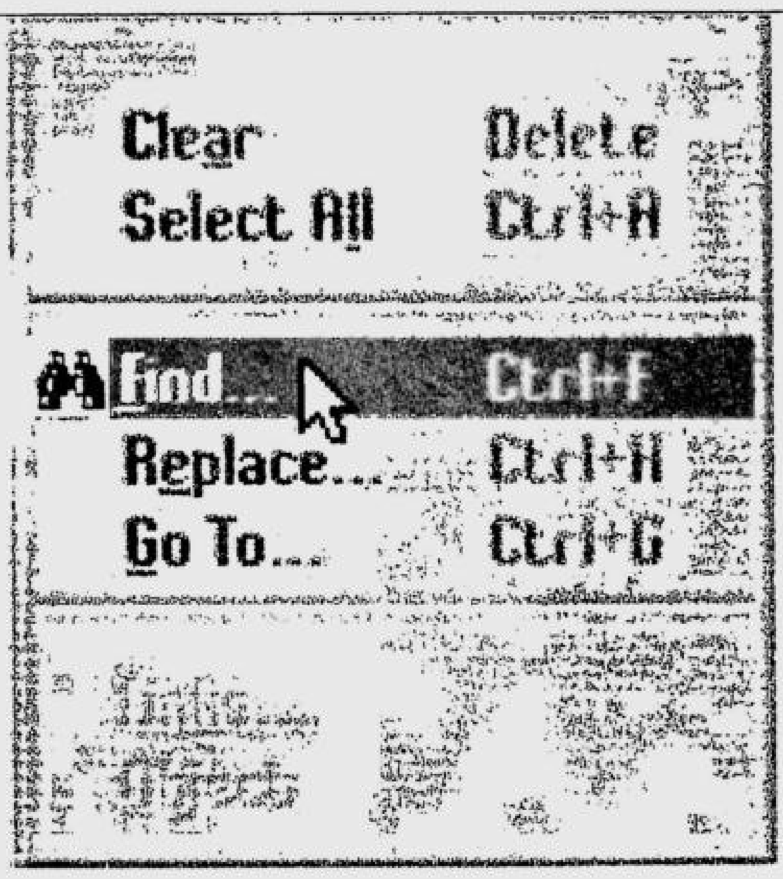
KABUL, Afghanistan—The New Year festival, celebrated each year by Afghanistan's Shiite Muslims, has gone the way of the country's ancient Buddha statues—vanquished by the ruling Taliban, who say it is contrary to Islam. A festival that came to Afghanistan from neighboring, Shiite-Muslim majority Iran, New Year was decreed a pagan celebration by the Taliban, who said it was taken from Zoroastrianism, which flourished in pre-Islamic Iran. Translated from the Persian language, Zoroastrian means "fire-worshippers." "We are not fire worshippers. We are an Islamic country and do not celebrate New Year's," the Taliban's Radio Shariat said in announcing the ban. The same argument was used in ordering the destruction earlier this month of thousands of statues of Buddha, including two towering Buddhas carved into a cliffside in the third and fifth centuries—a legacy of Afghanistan's pre-Islamic residents. *AP*

Wreck survivors resorted to cannibalism

BARAHONA, Dominican Republic—Survivors of a nightmarish shipwreck stayed alive by eating the bodies of fellow voyagers who died during a three-week ordeal at sea, a survivor said Tuesday. Only two people survived of the 60 Dominicans believed to have crowded onto the boat in an illegal attempt to migrate to the neighboring US Caribbean territory of Puerto Rico. A third survivor died in a Haitian hospital Friday. The boat suffered engine problems and drifted for weeks without power before it hit a coral reef off Haiti and sank last Thursday. "Every night someone died and in the morning the others would cut them up and eat them," said Carlos Pinales, 19, one of two survivors brought to the Dominican Republic from neighboring Haiti on Tuesday. Pinales said he did not eat any human flesh, though a doctor said it would have been impossible for him to survive otherwise. *AP*

Sub skipper owns blame for collision

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—The commander of a US nuclear attack submarine said Tuesday he accepted full responsibility for the sinking of a Japanese fishing trawler during an emergency surfacing maneuver. Commander Scott Waddle's surprise testimony to a naval board of inquiry came a day after US Navy officials refused to give him limited immunity in exchange for his appearance. Waddle's lawyer had said Monday he would not speak at the hearing, which ended Tuesday. Waddle, 41, captain of the USS Greeneville, faces a possible court-martial. His sub struck and sank the Japanese fishing trawler Ehime Maru while practicing an emergency surfacing maneuver Feb. 9 off the Hawaiian coast. Nine of the 35 people onboard the trawler are missing and presumed dead. "The court and the families need to hear from me, because it is the right thing to do," Waddle said. Waddle said he was prepared to face the consequences of his sworn testimony, but defended his actions the day of the fatal collision. The Greeneville was carrying 16 civilians when the accident occurred. Navy investigators said the crowding of the civilians in the sub's control room might have hampered its operations. *AFP*



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Bush tells Sharon: I won't 'force peace'

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush stuck by his largely hands-off approach to Middle East policy Tuesday, telling Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon he "will not try to force peace" on Israel and the Palestinians.

"We'll do everything we can to help calm nerves, to encourage there to be dialogue," said the US leader, who since taking office Jan. 20 has broken with predecessor Bill Clinton's intensely personal approach to the region.

"I told him our nation will not try to force peace, that we'll facilitate peace and that we will work with those responsible for peace," he said in a brief joint appearance after the two leaders met for the first time since taking office.

Sharon insisted that Bush endorsed his adamant position that peace talks with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat were impossible until the latter acts to end six months of violence.

The US leader publicly kept mum on the subject.

"The first thing and the most important one is to bring security to the citizens of Israel," Sharon said. "Once we reach security, and it will be calm in the Middle East, I believe that we'll start our negotiations to reach a peace agreement."

Sharon later told some reporters that he had urged the president not to invite Arafat because such a meeting "would be proof that terrorism pays." Bush did not respond, according to Israeli officials.

A senior US administration official denied that Sharon had sought to dissuade Bush from welcoming Arafat and insisted that while Washington called on the Arab leader help end the six-month uprising, doing so was not a condition for a visit by Arafat.

Bush, meanwhile, declined to say whether he would meet with Arafat, promising only that "one of the things that I will do is use whatever persuasive powers I have to create an environment in which peace can flourish."

The US leader has invited Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Abdullah.

The US official also said Bush urged Israel to "restore normal economic life" and ease pressures on Palestinians, thousands of whom cannot work since Israel closed its borders with the West Bank and Gaza when the violence flared up last September.

Meanwhile, US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher assailed Israel's plan to build an additional 3,000 homes in a controversial Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem known to the Arabs as Jebel Abu Ghneim.

"We don't think that continued construction activity like this contributes to peace or stability," he told reporters.

Sharon, for his part, stood by earlier comments laying the blame for regional volatility squarely on Arafat's shoulders.

"I don't think that I have to add about a fact that everyone knows, what are the steps of terror and who is behind the steps," said Sharon, who took office March 7.

Violence smoldered in the occupied territories ahead of the meeting, as a Palestinian boy was shot by a Jewish settler and an Israeli was injured in a drive-by shooting.

Two Palestinian youths were also injured when Israeli troops fired on demonstrators in an Arab village near Bethlehem who were protesting because the Army closed the area following the killing of a settler the day before.

Sharon later met with US congressional leaders, Vice President Dick Cheney, and Jewish lawmakers. He met Monday with US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and national security adviser Condo-leezza Rice.

Bush said nothing to contradict a campaign pledge to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, though he emphasized that the city's status "will be ultimately determined by the interested parties."

Powell infuriated the Arab world on March 8 when he told a congressional committee Bush was committed to moving Washington's "Embassy to the capital of Israel, which is Jerusalem." *AFP*

World's largest offshore oil rig sinks

RIO DE JANEIRO—Crippled by a series of mysterious explosions, the world's largest offshore oil rig sunk into the Atlantic Ocean on Tuesday, the state-owned oil company Petrobras announced.

The accident has sparked fears of a massive oil spill, despite assurances from Petrobras that the slick would not wash up on the beach.

The 210-meter-high rig, which had been in operation less than a year, took more than 1.5 million liters of oil with it as it headed 1,368 meters down to the ocean floor.

"Because of the depth, the tanks and pipes that contain oil will certainly break under pressure, and part of the oil will be released into the water," Segen Stefen, an expert in such structures, said at a news conference.

Petrobras said in a statement that there was "no danger" that an oil slick from the rig would reach the coastline, 150 km away.

On Thursday, three unexplained explosions in one of the piles that supported the P-36 rig on the seabed caused two confirmed deaths, with eight more people missing.

Dutch environmental experts, US consultants and workers from Petrobras battled to refloat the rig, pumping nitrogen into its flooded floaters and expelling 4,100 tons of water.

They managed to reduce the massive platform's list from 30 degrees to 24 degrees, but after heavy weather overnight, the huge steel structure suddenly started keeling over at 10:25 p.m.

Within less than 10 minutes the rig—as big as a 40-story building—had disappeared under the waters, heading to the ocean floor.

"The damage must have been enormous, because platforms of this size can stay afloat even in critical conditions," said Stefen, head of the postgraduate engineering program at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Greenpeace and other environmentalist groups have demanded that Petrobras take all necessary measures to prevent an ecological disaster.

A flotilla of 26 vessels and a semi-submersible platform had already been deployed to form a barrier around the stricken oil rig ahead of its sinking. *AFP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Free medical care

DIGOS CITY—Some 33,000 indigent residents of Makilala, North Cotabato became the first batch of recipients of free medical care after an agreement was signed between the local government and Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth). Makilala Mayor Romualdo Caparida said the local government will shoulder the residents' contribution under the government's indigents' program.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Gov't campaigners?

DIGOS CITY—NPC candidate for governor Reynerio Llanos denied he was using contractual employees to campaign for him. Reynerio, former private secretary and brother of incumbent governor Rogelio Llanos said the criticisms against him are baseless. He said he ceased to be connected with the government after filing his certificate of candidacy. "My opponents, who are still in government service, are the ones with contractual workers assigned them. It is possible they are the ones using contractual workers themselves," Reynerio said.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Singsons unhurt

CANDON, Ilocos Sur—Former Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson and his wife, Rep. Grace Singson, escaped unhurt after their vehicle bumped a parked passenger jeep and crashed on a tree along the national highway in Barangay Calaoan here on Monday night. Two passengers of the jeep, Jessie Torres and Joel Gadingan, were hurt. Police said the Singsons were aboard their Astro-Chevrolet when their driver, Guillermo Alcantara, lost control of the wheel and hit an approaching jeep. The Singsons, who were on their way to Manila, suffered bruises.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gun ban violator held

ANGAT, Bulacan—Police arrested a businessman and a farmer on charges of illegal possession of firearms while they were being searched at a Commission on Elections checkpoint in Barangay Sta. Lucia here on Friday. Charged with violation of the Omnibus Election Code before the Malolos regional trial court were Roberto de la Cruz, 37, and Nestor Tolentino, 29. Seized from De la Cruz were a 9mm pistol and 11 bullets and from Tolentino, a .45 cal. pistol and 11 bullets.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Sustainable agriculture

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The Pangasinan State University has established the PSU-Integrated Sustainable Agriculture Techno-Demo Farm to help farmers, processors, traders and entrepreneurs in the production, processing and marketing of their produce. The farm will be the nucleus of tissue culture, organic farming and seed research in Pangasinan. Its features are a tissue culture laboratory, a greenhouse, a trichoderma organic fertilizer plant, an aromatic and macapuno nursery and seed garden, a tree nursery and plant breeding station, and a fowl breeding station, among other things.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Sharks attack tourist

BATANGAS CITY—Fisherfolk in an island-barangay here found a badly mangled corpse of a male Caucasian tourist whom they suspected to be a victim of a shark attack off the coast of Barangay San Agapito, Isla Verde, this city, police said. The unidentified victim was spotted floating in strong currents off Sitio Siirin, Barangay San Agapito. Barangay officials immediately called the police and plucked the victim from the shark-infested sea, said Supt. Restito Hernandez, city police station commander. Fishermen told police that the victim could have been bitten by tiger sharks that used to swarm the coast of Lobo town, five miles from Sitio Siirin. Man-eating tiger sharks have been preying the area since last year, scaring off fishermen and tourists. In Isla Verde alone, five people fell victims to tiger shark attacks, but only few incidents have been reported to the police.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 33° Lo 23°	**Baguio** HI 27° Lo 16°	**Tuguegarao** HI 34° Lo 23°	**Laoag** HI 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone HI 33° Lo 23°	**Tagaytay** HI 33° Lo 22°	**Legazpi** HI 31° Lo 25°	**Calapan** HI 32° Lo 24°
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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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Blast prompts plea to put town under Comelec control

By Nestor Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Two mayoral candidates in San Enrique town have asked the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to put the municipality under its control following Sunday's explosion in front of the house of a vice mayoralty candidate.

Incumbent board member Jose Fernandez, who is running for mayor of San Enrique, filed his petition before the Comelec provincial office yesterday morning. In the afternoon, it was the turn of Zafiro Palabrica, Fernandez's rival.

Both cited the explosion in the residential compound of Julius Paclibar as basis in asking the Comelec to place San Enrique under its control.

Paclibar is the running mate of Palabrica, mayoralty candidate of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino. Fernandez is running under the Lakas-NUCD.

Nobody was injured in the blast but it shattered the glass jalousies and damaged the roof of Paclibar's house on Garrido Street, about 200 meters away from the police station. It also tore the fence of his neighbor's house.

The explosion was believed to have been caused by a grenade although the police failed to recover any safety pin and lever.

The police have yet to identify the suspects and the motive for the bombing although investigators were not discounting the possibility that it might be politically motivated.

But Fernandez said in his petition that placing San Enrique under Comelec control was necessary to ensure a peaceful election in the municipality on May 14.

Palabrica, for his part, said his camp believed that the explosion was politically motivated, meant to harass Paclibar and his neighbor, the Pador family who are supporting Paclibar.

Lawyer Rodolfo Sarroza, Comelec director for Western Visayas, said he would wait for the results of the police investigation of the explosion before coming up with a recommendation on whether or not to put San Enrique under Comelec control.

"If an area is placed under Comelec control, our office will take over the supervision of the police force including the employees of the local government who are performing election functions," he said.

He, however, foresaw no major problems in the conduct of the elections in Western Visayas as of now. Aside from the blast in San Enrique, no other violence considered election-related has been reported in the region.

"Barring unforeseen events, we will have a peaceful and orderly elections here," Sarroza told the Inquirer.

The Police Regional Office in Western Visayas has not declared any area in the region a hot spot.

An area is considered a hot spot if any of the following conditions exists: The presence of rebels, intense political rivalry and the existence of private armed groups.

Trade rivalry eyed in kidnap

MALOLOS, Bulacan—The abduction of a Chinese-Filipino businessman in Sta. Maria town last week could have stemmed from a business rivalry or a labor dispute, a police official said Tuesday.

Supt. Emelito Sarmiento said the family of businessman Marco Sia, 37, has refused to cooperate with the police as they fear for their safety.

Sia, who owns the Silver Spring Farm in Barangay Bulak in Sta. Maria, was abducted by armed men as he was leaving his farm on Wednesday last week.

Sarmiento said they are verifying reports that Sia's former workers, whom he earlier dismissed from their jobs, could be behind the abduction.

Inquirer sources in the police, however, said rival businessmen in Sta. Maria could have hired armed men to abduct Sia, a resident of Metro Manila.

The sources also said they are looking into reports that Sia's abduction was prompted by his supposed debts from feed suppliers.

Sarmiento expressed confidence that Sia is being kept by the suspects in a safehouse in Bulacan.

Reports showed that Sia was driving his Nissan Ultra Eagle pickup and was about to leave Sitio Kaylawig in Barangay Bulak when it was blocked by five armed men in a gray Mitsubishi Adventure van.

The suspects, armed with long and short firearms, reportedly dragged Sia to their van and sped to Barangay Poblacion here.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

SLOW RIVER

LAWRENCE CHIN

Boatmen gave way to floats of various shapes and sizes along the Pagsanjan River during the Bankerohan Festival recently in Pagsanjan, Laguna.

Subic Bay marine show remains open

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The marine park featuring a swim-with-whales-and-dolphins program, the first of its kind in the country, remains open despite a cease-and-desist order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources last March 17, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority confirmed Tuesday.

Environmentalists, marine biologists, animal welfare advocates and veterinarians earlier called on the DENR to keep a close watch on the Ocean Adventures Park of the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium (SBME), citing reports that the company was inclined to continue its operations despite the cease-and-desist order.

The SBME went ahead with the park's soft opening this month despite a notice of violation issued against its operation on Jan. 5.

SBME officials, who requested anonymity, confirmed that despite the order, "the whale encounter program is still going on because SBMA has not told us to stop operating."

They said Tim Desmond, SBME chief executive officer, had consulted with lawyers in Manila on Tuesday.

SBMA officials sought for comment on Tuesday were all in Manila, except for Ecology Center officer-in-charge Ameth de la Llana, who declined to comment on the issue.

The DENR has "yet to respond to such reports," according to Trixie Concepcion of Earth Island Institute, one of the more than 20 groups that lobbied for the order to protect the mammals and to protect conservation efforts in the country.

"If such reports were true, the Ocean Adventures would be looking at open defiance of Philippine environmental laws," Concepcion said in a statement e-mailed to the Inquirer.

Peter Abaya, DENR Environmental Management Bureau director, issued the order because the SBME did not obtain an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the agency.

The SBME only got an ECC from the SBMA's environment department in November 1999.

Desmond earlier said the project was not within the authority of the DENR and that importation permits from the Department of Agriculture and regulatory requirements and control of the SBMA were sufficient.

The SBMA said "it will not enforce the DENR order," asserting it has the authority to approve and regulate projects within the freeport. It also said the environmental implications of the marine show were "thoroughly studied."

The SBMA approved the project, saying it was in promotion of animal conservation through interactive education.

The DENR-SBMA row over the SBME's right to operate at Subic was the first of such conflict that erupted between the two government agencies.

Among those opposing the project are the Earth Island Institute, Philippine Animal Welfare Society, Balik Kalikasan-Babilonia Wilner Foundation, Tanggol Kalikasan, Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment, Center for Environmental Concerns-Philippines, World Wildlife Fund-Philippines, Haribon Foundation, Earthwatch Philippines, Youth Collective for Animal Liberation and student environmental groups.

They said the company failed to also register with the animal welfare division of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

"Ocean Adventures has effectively violated two national laws, including Presidential Decree 1586 (Environmental Impact Statement System) and Republic Act 8485 (Animal Welfare Act)." Concepcion said.

She said the cease-and-desist order would pave the way for the resolution of various issues that have hounded the marine park. *Tonette Orejas with a report from Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Tribe asks GMA to reverse dad's order

By Gerry Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAPAZ, Capiz—Members of a cultural minority group known as "Tumandok" are asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to repeal a proclamation issued by her father in 1962, declaring their ancestral land as a military reservation.

"The land is our ancestral land. We were born there and we will die there. Proclamation No. 67 made us instant squatters on our land," said Samuel Francisco, 52, a Tumandok, during a dialogue with the provincial board members on Friday.

Francisco, who acted as the group's spokesperson, pointed out that their ancestors inhabited the land even before the Spaniards came to the Philippines.

The provincial board held its session in Tapaz primarily to listen to the grievances of the indigenous people. The dialogue also coincided with the 3rd Tumandok People's Assembly.

Board member Cesar Talabucon, in a privilege speech, expressed support to the Tumandoks and called for the repeal of Proclamation No. 67 which, he said, "allows the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) to grab the Tumandok land."

He also rejected a proposal to divide the land between the AFP and the Tumandok communities "as this will divide the Tumandok people . . ."

The proposal was contained in House Resolution 1676 authored by then party-list representative and now Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor. The resolution is pending in Congress.

Then President Diosdado Macapagal signed Proclamation No. 67 in 1962, declaring the 33,310 hectares of property straddling the hinterland of Tapaz and Jamindan towns as a military reservation.

The area hosts the Armed Forces 3rd Infantry Division, which is based in Camp Macario Peralta in Jamindan, some 60 kilometers from the capital Roxas City. The camp is said to be the biggest in the country.

According to the Task Force Tumandok, there are 1,968 households in Tapaz and Jamindan, which are inside the military reservation.

These communities are also found in the interior of Panay strategically located in the borders of Iloilo and Capiz, Antique and Aklan.

The task force is composed of different nongovernment organizations helping cultural minorities in Panay.

In its position paper, Task Force Tumandok said by virtue of Proclamation No. 67, the AFP has treated the Tumandoks like squatters and has deprived them of their right to their ancestral land.

"Hunger and dispossession have stricken the Tumandok people whose very survival as a people is deeply interlinked with their ancestral lands," the task force said.

"Worse, war games, weapons testing activities and military operations are continuously done to harass the Tumandok people and force them into evacuating their communities," it added.

Tapaz Mayor Romualdo Exmundo said he has been addressing the problem of the Tumandoks through continuous consultations and dialogues.

He said the government has built roads leading to the areas of the Tumandok people.

Lito Española, a representative of the National Commission on Indigenous People, said under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, indigenous people can now apply for Certificates of Land Title.

Gov. Vicente Bermejo said the Tumandoks should not be driven out from the land where they were born.

He said they deserved all the help they could get from the government in their desire to take their ancestral land back.

Gov't urged: Don't give MILF camps

ANGELES CITY—Opposition senatorial candidate Ricardo Puno Jr. has urged the Macapagal administration to "never allow" the return of rebel camps to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to prevent the group from using the coming peace talks as an opportunity to consolidate its ranks and strengthen its forces.

Puno, a former press secretary who is running under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa (LDP-PnM), was in this city last week to meet his Kapampangan relatives and speak in a forum at the Angeles University Foundation.

While he fully supports efforts to reopen the peace talks with the MILF, the government should not bend backwards on these two critical issues to prove its sincerity in returning to the negotiating table, he said.

Allowing the MILF to regain control of these camps, he said, "would only erode the gains made by the government to restore peace and order in Mindanao."

The military took control of Camp Abubakar, the main camp of the MILF, and 50 other satellite camps of the armed group last year.

Puno said that there should be no compromise on the issues of sovereignty and territorial integrity in pursuing the peace process.

"The government must make clear, in no certain terms, that the issues of sovereignty and territorial integrity are, and always will be non-negotiable," he said.

The MILF has accepted the government's offer to return to the negotiating table.

The Moro guerrillas' main demand is for an independent Islamic state in Mindanao. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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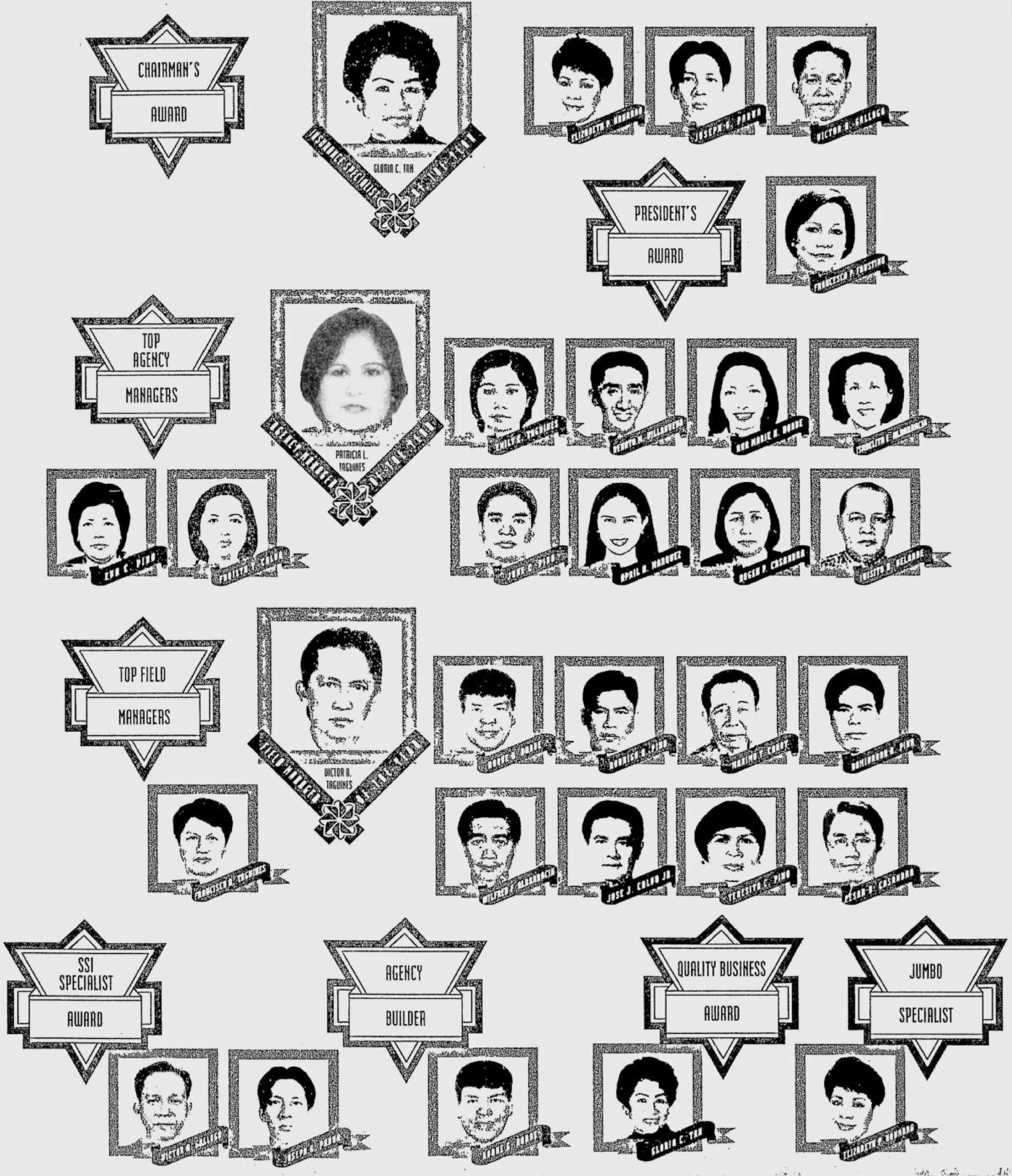
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An invitation to treachery

(From page A1)

In contemplating this move to present the resignation option before the President, I anticipated three plausible responses:

One, he would accept, or at least seriously consider my suggestion. Two, he would reject the idea outright, retain me in my post but withdraw all his trust in me.

And, three, he would replace me as chief of staff.

I was ready to accept whatever response the President would choose to make. As early as then, I had a clear mental picture of the situation should it reach a point of irreversible deterioration.

I wanted to be consulted by the President at that moment when he had to make the critical strategic decision that would determine the fate of our nation. Thus, if there was anything I wanted to preserve, it was his trust in me.

In the extreme case that the President would decide to resign on my advice, I would remain by his side, in uniform, until his last day in office. I had determined that, should that time come, I was ready to sink with the administration.

After consulting with my staff, I did approach President Estrada on Nov. 4 at the Presidential Residence (PR) to ask him to consider the option of stepping down.

His immediate reaction was to cite his high popularity ratings, relative to the Vice President's, in public polling surveys at the time. I expressed concern that the forthcoming impeachment trial would severely injure his reputation and the institution of the presidency should he get convicted. He, in turn, expressed confidence that he would be acquitted by the impeachment court.

But, I asked: "*Sir, paano kung matalo kayo?*" ("Sir, what if you lose?") To this, he answered: "*Eh, di aalis tayo dito.*" ("Then, we leave Malacañang "). I was relieved to hear this.

From that exchange, it was clear that President Estrada was determined to stand or fall on the basis of constitutional processes. And on that score I assured the President of my support.

However, word of that confidential conversation with the President somehow leaked out. And my sources would later tell me that some of the President's advisers told him to have me court-martialed if I broached the subject of his resignation one more time.

I decided never to raise the issue again. For whose purpose would it serve if I were to be replaced and court-martialed?

'I leave convinced'

The day following my talk with President Estrada—Sunday, Nov. 5—Col. Victor Corpus, then on special assignment with the Department of National Defense, came to my quarters in Camp Aguinaldo at seven in the morning.

He brought with him an unexpected guest: Alan Ortiz, a close adviser of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on economic and security matters.

It turned out that Mr. Ortiz came to invite me to touch base with the Vice President to reach a common level of understanding should the political situation turn from bad to worse.

I replied that I had no desire to do any such thing. If I agreed to meet with her then, that could easily be misconstrued as participating in a conspiracy—or committing treachery—against President Estrada.

I explained to Mr. Ortiz that if I can do that behind the President's back, then the same thing could happen to Vice President Arroyo should she become chief executive herself one day.

In fact, all future Presidents 50, 100 years hence would always be watching their backs, fearful that their top generals might be conspiring against them.

Bottom line, I told Mr. Ortiz, is that the chief of staff should never even be perceived as plotting against the government—much less, actually doing so.

In the end, he understood and respected my position. He said "I came here to convince, I leave convinced." And it would not be until Jan. 19, 2001 that I would come face to face with Vice President Macapagal.

Bracing for crisis

With a political crisis looming, I took steps to insulate the AFP from the rising tides of partisanship in other sectors of society. My primordial concern as chief of staff was to keep the AFP cohesive and professional.

Therefore, during the months of November and December 2000, I took the initiative of visiting the troops across the nation to send a clear message that the Armed Forces must remain united and above partisan politics.

While the impeachment trial was in progress, the role of the AFP, in tandem with the police, in the unfolding drama was clear-cut: To preserve the integrity of the process, while protecting the right of citizens to express themselves peacefully in the streets.

On the late evening of Tuesday, Jan. 16, however, the impeachment process suffered a mortal blow when the senator-judges, by a narrow, evidently partisan vote, rejected the opening of an envelope containing documentary evidence deemed vital to the case of the prosecution.

Within a few hours, thousands of Filipinos let loose their collective cry of protest via a noise barrage before proceeding to the Edsa Shrine for an impromptu indignation rally. (The following three days would see the protest rallies and marches growing in size, coverage and intensity not only at Edsa but in various parts of the country as well.)

At 7:30 a.m. of that day I was supposed to fly to Lucena City, Quezon, to preside over the deactivation of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom). But due to a meeting in Malacañang, I asked the deputy chief of staff to represent me instead.

That morning, I had unexpected visitors: Colonel Corpus and retired Col. Gerry Cunanan, my classmate at the PMA.

They brought intelligence reports about possible restiveness within segments of the AFP. Specifically, they informed me about the earlier reported covert attempts of Marine Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa, prodded by elements within the United Opposition, at organizing troops to move against the Estrada government, as well as reports that the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) and some retired generals were mobilizing their contacts within the AFP and the Philippine National Police.

In our discussion, I intimated that what we should be concerned about is the danger of giving the public the impression that the AFP was divided. The AFP must be united. The public must entertain no doubt that the officers and troops remained steadfast behind the chain of command.

Active military intervention in affairs of state—in the form of *coups d'etat*, as attempted by AFP factions during the late 1980s—could not be allowed to rear its ugly head again.

'Trouble in the air'

At around 10 a.m., Jan. 17, I went to Malacañang bringing along Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, the deputy chief staff for operations (J3). At the Presidential Palace, President Estrada sought to harness the support of the mayors in Metro Manila.

After the meeting, I went straight to my residence and prepared for a speaking engagement at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business where I was the guest speaker for their Corporate Leadership Seminar. In that seminar I was asked when the AFP would intervene. I said we have a non-interventionist Armed Forces.

On Thursday, Jan. 18, I went about my usual routine while continuously being informed by my staff on the prevailing situation. The news from the papers, radio and television further kept me in touch with developments outside the camp.

My morning routine was disrupted only by an agitated Colonel Corpus who came to my office to warn me: "*Magkakagulo na, Sir, puputok na ito'*" ("Trouble is in the air. The situation is about to explode!") The implicit message was that perhaps the AFP should make a stand--whether or not to support the Estrada government--at that point. Assessing the situation differently, I told him that there was nothing I could do except do my job.

Carried away by his emotions, Colonel Corpus said: "If you do not move, sir, you might find me on the other side." And, knowing him to be a highly principled man, I replied: "Go ahead. Go to the other side, if that's what you believe in." He left after that.

We began receiving intelligence reports that New Peoples' Army (NPA) operatives were coming in from the North and that extreme rightist elements were plotting to set up a military junta.

Realizing the potential danger that hung over the heads of thousands of demonstrators gathered at Edsa, I decided to get in touch late morning of Jan. 18 with retired Gen. Renato de Villa, one of the closest aides of Vice President Macapagal, to get a better picture of the situation from the United Opposition's point of view. I wanted to have a sense of, not necessarily their plan, but the magnitude of the prevailing moral outrage, and the extent to which they were willing to go.

Contingency plan

In the meantime, following standard procedure and on their own initiative, members of my GHQ staff—General Dagudag, Colonel Corpus, Colonel Rodrigo F. Maclang of the Joint Operations Center, Maj. Roy Devesa, my executive assistant, and Maj. Edgardo de Leon, my administrative assistant—met and prepared a contingency plan in collaboration with Brig. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, head of the Special Operations Command.

Major General Alvez (retired), a classmate at PMA, called and said he wanted to see me. I was guest of honor and speaker during the testimonial dinner for the members of PMA Class '70 in the evening of Jan. 18 at the AFP Officers Clubhouse.

I therefore set the meeting with MGen Alvez at 9 p.m. and with General De Villa at 11 p.m. at a function room of the officers clubhouse (confident that I could excuse myself from the testimonial dinner).

In our meeting, Alvez told me that something would happen within 48 hours, at the latest within 72 hours. He said the situation was near its critical point. I told him I will stay my course and discharge my duties as chief of staff. I asked him to confirm the reports and that we would meet again at 7:30 a.m. of Jan. 19 in my quarters. From General De Villa, on the other hand, I got the sense that the opposition was determined and would be willing to go the long haul.

The testimonial dinner, interrupted by the two meetings, ended at about 1 a.m. of Jan. 19. I went back to my quarters and watched the TV coverage of the Edsa demonstration. I watched to assess the intensity of the moral outrage.

At 2 a.m. they were still there. I was hoping they would go home already so I could sleep. At 3 a.m. they were still at it. At 4 a.m. the adrenalin at Edsa was still going strong.

What I saw convinced me that the people meant business and that they would only grow in number and intensity as the days went by.

Emergency rule?

The questions ringing in my mind then were: How long can the economy take it? To what extent could we allow society to be polarized? If violence erupted or were instigated, could it be contained or will it feed on itself? What would be the scenario if emergency rule would be imposed?

Emergency rule is an extreme defensive measure available to the state to protect itself against threats to it. When used to maintain or rescue a regime facing rejection, the people will oppose it. If that time should come, I knew that even the AFP leadership could not prevent its ranks from being deeply divided and taking positions against each other.

It was already past 4 a.m. (of Jan. 19). Knowing that I still had a meeting at 7:30 a.m., I forced myself to doze off with the help of sleeping pills. ***(To be continued tomorrow)***

Vatican confirms report on priests raping nuns

(From page A1)

United States, Brazil, India, Ireland and Italy.

The charges first appeared in the Kansas City-based National Catholic Reporter weekly on March 16 and in a small Italian religious news agency Adista, which also publishes a weekly.

The author of the report was physician Maura O'Donohue, a nun who presented it to the head of the Vatican's Congregation for Holy Orders, Cardinal Martinez Somalo, in February 1995.

Somalo ordered a working group from the Congregation to study the problem with O'Donohue, who was AIDS coordinator for the London-based Roman Catholic Fund for Overseas Development.

Charges made in the report, signed with names and surnames, were made known to Church authorities on several occasions throughout the 1990s, an article by la Repubblica's respected Vatican correspondent Marco Politi, said.

Forced to abort

O'Donohue made specific reference to certain cases, one in which a priest forced a nun to have an abortion, resulting to her death. The priest officiated at the nun's requiem mass.

In reference to Africa, the report said: "It is impossible (there) for a woman or an adolescent to refuse a man, specially an older man and in particular a priest."

In Africa, certain priests sought out nuns "for fear of contracting AIDS with prostitutes."

"There are cases in which priests make nuns take the pill . . . and there was one case of 20 nuns in one religious community being pregnant at the same time," the article from la Repubblica quoted the report as saying.

A mother superior was continually ignored by the local bishop when she complained that priests in the diocese had made 29 of her nuns pregnant. The bishop relieved her of her duties, the report said without identifying the diocese.

In 1998, Marie McDonald, mother superior of the Missionaries of Our Lady of Africa, presented her report on "sexual abuse and rape committed by priests and bishops."

La Repubblica quoted McDonald as saying that she did not know of any inspections taking place after her report.

"Then there is the conspiracy of silence which makes the problem worse. Only if we confront this together, will we be able to find a solution," she said.

Restricted to an area

A statement by Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the problem "is known about and is restricted to a certain geographical area."

"The Holy See is dealing with the issue in collaboration with bishops, the Union of Superiors General (grouping of heads of male religious orders) and the International Union of Superiors General (heads of female religious orders)."

While the Vatican did not name the geographical area, the report said most incidents of sexual abuse against nuns occurred in Africa where the nuns were identified as "safe" following the spread of the AIDS virus now devastating the continent.

"We are working on two fronts, training of people and finding a solution to individual cases," the Vatican statement said.

"Some negative cases cannot let us forget the often heroic faith expressed by the large majority of those men and women in religious orders and of the clergy," it added.

The missionary news agency Misna echoed Navarro-Valls' words.

"On the one hand . . these incidents of alleged sexual abuse cannot and should not be denied or justified, on the other hand they prompt us to reflect on the conditions in which the majority of the tens of thousands of missionaries live on the fringes of the so-called Third World," Misna said.

"Many of them live in situations of extreme psychological and physical hardship, at the limits of human endurance," it said. *Reuters*

Namfrel . . .

(From page A1)

final vote tally.

"The difference is that (in terms of) probative value *mas mabigat ang* (more weight) election returns because it is an accountable form. That is what will be used in tabulating," Benipayo explained.

Even as Benipayo made the announcement, the Comelec still had to give media a copy of its resolution. Benipayo said the Comelec arrived at the decision to authorize both Namfrel and NPC during an en banc session last week.

Copies of the draft resolution, however, were circulated only yesterday. The INQUIRER got hold of a photocopy of the 17-page resolution from an NPC member who said the document was sent by an anonymous source.

That draft resolution, whose first and last pages were missing, said that while Namfrel "possessed the track record, logistics, manpower and machinery to conduct an unofficial count," its drawback was its inability to immediately relay to the Comelec the system and basis of its tabulation.

This opened Namfrel to charges of count manipulation, although the Comelec admitted that Namfrel's detractors were unable to provide convincing proof that Namfrel and its officials had deliberately engaged in such manipulation.

As for the NPC, the Comelec said the media group did not have any track record in the conduct of an unofficial count. It said it could not rely on the NPC's proposed Internet-based quick count system.

However, if the systems of Namfrel and NPC are made to complement each other, the Comelec said this could improve the existing system.

"Ideally, (Namfrel and NPC) should find ways and means to cooperate and coordinate with each other by complementing each others' efforts in areas where one is strong and the other is weak," the draft resolution said.

The Comelec, however, did not force the two groups to work with each other, saying their separate unofficial counts are "always subject to a reconciliation of the figures where they differ."

According to the Comelec draft resolution, both Namfrel and NPC must conduct a dry-run of their count systems covering 30 percent of the proposed area of coverage 30 days before election day.

"The system must be satisfactory, not only to the Comelec, but also to major political parties . . . and non-compliance with these parameters can be ground for revocation of the accreditation," it said.

The Philippine Press Institute had distanced itself from the NPC quick count project.

The PPI in a recent statement said, "the primary function of the press is to report accurately events of public concern, including elections, and to serve as the watchdog of the people."

"It is not the function of the press to participate in the counting of votes in the elections," it said, adding that the press cannot be a participant and a watchdog at the same time.

PPI is the national association of newspapers.

Senate kills bill for new voters listing

(From page A1)

The House special session was formally adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Malacañang is also disappointed with the turn of events in Congress.

"But we did our best and President Macapagal-Arroyo gave her full support to it," Presidential Spokesperson Renato Corona said.

Corona said the Palace could still pin its hopes on the Supreme Court. Youth groups have filed petitions with the high court asking it to compel the Comelec to hold the special registration. They claim there are laws providing for continuing registration.

While leaders of the two chambers of Congress and the presidential spokesperson were disappointed, opposition legislators in the House had reason to celebrate.

"I am vindicated—again. I'm happy that it is adjourned. From the very start I've been saying that what we're doing is wrong," Maguidanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said.

It was mainly due to the Maguindanao congressman's filibustering that plenary deliberations on the list-up bills had a rough sailing in the first two special session days.

Dilangalen, who told reporters that Joseph Estrada "is still my President," said President Macapagal pushed for the special registration because she was "under pressure from the Left."

On the Senate floor, Senate Minority Leader Renato Cayetano, who sponsored Senate Bill No. 2278, expressed also disappointment over Benipayo's admission.

The bill had proposed the holding of the special registration on April 7.

But Benipayo stood by his statement that the elections would have to be reset for June 4 to complete all activities for the special registration.

Cayetano estimated that the Comelec would need 50 days to prepare for the special registration, way beyond the May 14 polls.

In his speech before the Senate, Benipayo made it clear that Comelec was not against the special registration for the disenfranchised first-time voters.

But he said that after reviewing the Comelec's timetable for the May 14 polls and the proposed Senate measure he found out that the Comelec could not meet the deadline.

He said that all the processes and steps for the registration would be completed by April 27 and that the election paraphernalia would be delivered by May 21, way beyond the May 14 polls.

He disclosed that the Comelec was already 25 days behind schedule in preparing for the May 14 polls.

Benipayo admitted that the bill did not have enough safeguards due to lack of time.

He also noted that it would be difficult to implement some of the Senate bill's provisions like those involving excluded voters.

Benipayo said not enough lawyers could help the voters because the bill gave them only a day to file a petition before the municipal trial court.

He noted that one-third of the 1,000 municipal trial courts in the country had no judges and other personnel.

"We will be risking failure of elections," he said.

"I have to be candid about it or else the country will suffer," he said.

Failure of elections

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile commended Benipayo for his "candor in telling us the reality besetting his commission."

"It is easy to go along with what is perceived to be popular but it takes moral courage to accept the truth and tell it in public," Enrile said.

He said other officials "would have succumbed to political pressure and allow the country to be buffeted by a greater problem."

Enrile told reporters that the attempt to craft the measure was in the first place an "impossible effort to accomplish because of the time constraint."

Sen. Vicente Sotto, chair of the Senate committee on electoral reform, said a lesson could be learned from yesterday's events—people must follow deadlines set by the government.

Pimentel said "this was a good learning process for all of us."

"We got to discuss the matter and our knowledge has been enriched," he said.

But Sen. John Osmeña said that what the Senate had done in the past three days was a "waste of time."

He said that what the session achieved was the approval of the Public Works Act of Sen. Ramon Revilla.

Frustrating

In the House, Belmonte said the adjournment of Congress without approving the measure on special registration was "frustrating because we were able to muster a big quorum (during the three session days)."

"But this is a case in which Congress cannot impose its will on the Comelec," he said.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, said "both the Senate and the House were willing, but the Comelec should have had more will power.

But Makati City Rep. Agapito Aquino said forcing the Comelec to the job in a haphazard way would result in a failure of elections.

"We don't want anybody to doubt our electoral process. Right now in the middle of the campaign, the fifth week, it's very difficult to change the rules in the middle of the ballgame," he said.

Aquino congratulated the Senate on "making a wise decision."

Some lawmakers from different political parties opposed Benipayo's proposal to move the elections to June 4.

Former Speaker Manuel Villar, now a senatorial candidate under the People Power Coalition, said postponing the elections would be "very destabilizing."

Opposition Rep. Benasing Macarambon said Benipayo's suggestion would even entail "amending the Constitution."

Estrada, who is against a special registration, said the youth were taught a lesson on their political responsibilities.

"It's not because we want to disenfranchise them. We want to teach them a lesson," he said at a dinner with Palace reporters Tuesday.

He recalled that when he was 18, registrations were only held Fridays and not everyday and yet the youth did well to do their duty of registering.

"Why did they fail to register. They are not responsible citizens so you must teach them a lesson, do we not?" he asked.

With a report from Alcuin Papa

Erap: Gloria . . .

(From page A1)

"GMA looks very pretty now. Even her hairdo, she looks better now," he said, smiling broadly. "She looks very pleasant," he told the Malacañang press corps on Tuesday night at his Polk Street, San Juan residence. He had invited the press corps to a "thanksgiving dinner."

Looking relaxed in navy blue trousers topped with a blue and white shirt, Estrada commented on Ms Macapagal's looks when reporters noted that both he and Ms Macapagal have lost 15 lbs. since January.

After the pretty words about Ms Macapagal, the former president went on to paint a somewhat ugly picture of her administration.

At best, Estrada said, the "Acting President" was only "continuing the programs I started" in housing and land distribution, "and I congratulate her for that."

Although he initially declined to give his assessment of the two-month-old Macapagal administration, he cited several things the present government "was doing wrong."

"All retired generals are offered juicy positions, like Lt. Gen. (Edgardo) Espinosa was offered (the Manila Economic and Cultural Office) to calm him down," Estrada said.

"I think the Acting President has more military advisers than I did, even though this administration" is now bent on talking peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, he noted.

He said Ms Macapagal should remember that 600 soldiers died fighting to take the main camp of the MILF (Camp Abubakar) and "defending the sovereign will of the country."

"Many were also seriously injured and now she wants to return it (camp) to the MILF? As commander in chief, you have the duty to protect the territorial integrity of the country," he said

He also had some advice for her. "Always decide for the greater good of the greater number" when faced with hard decisions, Estrada said.

Estrada also complained that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez was forcing his friends to testify against him.

Reminded that both will be celebrating their birthdays next month—Ms Macapagal on April 5 and Estrada on the 19th—the deposed president extended "advance happy birthday" greetings to his successor.

Asked what his birthday wish would be, he replied: "My only wish is that the Constitution be preserved and protected."

Nearer God

He said he now spends his time leading the opposition campaign and watching TV at home.

"I just watch CNN and the NBA. I get depressed when I see disinformation" on local television, he said, by way of explaining his loss of weight. He said he has stopped taking the anti-obesity drug Xenical.

He now attends Mass everyday and declared himself to be "nearer to God and my family," including his mother Doña Mary who joins them every Sunday.

"She hears Mass with us every Sunday. Although wheelchair-bound, she is still lucid. I just stop her from watching television or reading the (INQUIRER)," he said.

As to a return to show business, he said this was out of the question.

"I want my (movie) image to remain macho, not (that of) a grandfather. What will be my appeal? *Lolo na si Erap* (Erap is a grandfather)?"

'Aranetas' silence has been defeaning'

(From page A1)

His own e-mail shows his lies.

In an e-mail message he sent me on March 4, Waters wrote: "I called our people right after we spoke . . . Those people are friends and I just do not want to lose face with them. They have always stuck by me through thick and thin. I do owe the deceased some personal favors and wanted to help their families." (The reference to the deceased is a reference to the late Ferdinand Marcos and the late General Ver).

On March 7, he sent me this e-mail: "David, I just got a call from the two principals in this and they have requested (demanded) I give them some kind of update. I am sorry but I knew it would come to this. It is very important that I feed them some info even if it is wrong so could you please give me something to feed them. Thanks."

'Lies'

Waters deceived the Aranetas regarding the fact that it was a banker friend of Jacobi who would act on their instructions. Waters' lies to his friends have led to their downfall.

Waters says that he never met Irene Araneta in Germany and that he met Eleazar Reyes, the Aranetas' lawyer, only once to say hello.

Who can believe him on these matters? What was Waters doing in Dusseldorf, Germany, for eight days, from Feb. 8-15? Was he twiddling his thumbs?

Waters alleges that he thought the project was legal because Reiner Jacobi and I told him so. The fact is nothing was ever said about the legality of the project in Germany because everyone knew that it was illegal.

Who can believe Waters' claim of innocent knowledge?

He has lived in the Philippines for over 20 years. He was aware of the notorious criminal activities of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. He knows that both the Swiss courts and the Sandiganbayan have held that the Marcos funds in Switzerland are the proceeds of crime.

On 'con game'

Waters' article contains numerous references to Hutcherson being a victim of a fraudulent investment scheme devised by Jacobi and myself. He even suggests that the recent events in Germany are part of some elaborate con game.

I completely reject his allegation.

Waters knows that his partner, Hutcherson, signed a document that specifically refers to the "illicit assets of former President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines."

The fact is that in 1998, Hutcherson made an agreement with Jacobi concerning the project to recover those "illicit assets."

The reason that the project required outside financing was that the Philippine Presidential Commission on Good Government was unable to provide any monies to investigate the hidden Marcos assets.

Jacobi was required to use his own personal monies and that of investors to finance all expenses, including significant legal and investigation-related expenses. He disclosed this to the PCGG.

'Nonsense'

So when Waters claims that he and Hutcherson are the victims of an unlawful sting operation or entrapment, this is sheer nonsense.

It was Hutcherson who first approached Jacobi with an illegal proposition, namely, that he wished Jacobi to work with him to launder Irene Araneta's illicit monies.

Hutcherson's approach was made at the request of Waters, who was acting on behalf of Camcam, an intimate friend of Irene Araneta.

It was Hutcherson who entered into an agreement with Irene Araneta to launder her funds. He voluntarily signed the agreement and side agreements. Waters sought to protect himself by not signing any document (except to open an account at Deutsche Bank), but there are witnesses to his conduct.

Hutcherson himself took Irene and Greggy Araneta to Deutsche Bank for the purpose of assisting them in laundering their monies. Hutcherson was not acting as the agent of anyone, but was acting on his own behalf.

Business proposition

Waters' and Hutcherson's role in this "business deal" cannot be characterized as legitimate or serving any lawful purpose.

A person with a bank account in one country does not require the assistance of an intermediary to transfer monies from that bank account to another.

How can Hutcherson justify receiving a fee of 25 percent (or as we suspect, 40 percent under the secret agreement) for assisting Irene Araneta in transferring her own money from a Swiss bank to a German bank?

No one told him to open an account. Hutcherson's acts were for his own personal gain, as were Waters'.

Waters says that his motivation was not to make money but to help a friend. This is laughable, because at all times he saw this project as a business proposition whereby he would be rewarded for facilitating the money-laundering venture.

Indeed, he told various witnesses that he was entitled to 5 percent of the laundered monies under an agreement with Hutcherson.

Waters also claims that although he opened a bank account at Deutsche Bank, "I had no reason to open an account other than the fact that I was there." Can anyone believe this man?

Friend of whom?

Waters also says that he is a loyal and dedicated friend to the Philippines. He says that he would "never knowingly betray this country."

I believe that anyone who helps the Marcos family to keep their dirty loot cannot be called a friend of the Filipino people.

REINER JACOBI, Chaikin's client

Waters also says that all he was trying to do was "help some very good people in the Philippines whom I am honored to have called friends for a number of years."

If this is the case, why does he not name his Filipino friends? Nowhere in his INQUIRER article does he mention the names Edna Camcam or Jun Camcam. His statement that he has "absolutely nothing to hide" is completely contradicted by his failure to identify his Filipino friends and their role in the attempted money-laundering transaction.

No records

Waters claims that he did not keep any logs or keep track of dates during the whole episode. I believe that the real reason that he did not keep any records was that he was afraid that if the money-laundering scheme was discovered, his documents would incriminate him.

In contrast, all the legitimate parties—Deutsche Bank, the German anti-money laundering authorities and myself—have kept detailed notes and records.

During all of the events in Germany, Waters sought to play a backroom role. He did everything he could to minimize his exposure.

He was seemingly paranoid about what was happening in Dusseldorf—he kept his suitcase packed ready for a quick escape. Waters was the first person who left Germany, leaving his friends behind.

From the airport lounge—after he had cleared German border controls—Waters telephoned Jacobi to tell him that he was the most honorable man that he had ever met.

Those threats

Waters says that he never threatened Tim Boardman, Hutcherson's partner. This is what he said to Boardman in e-mail dated Feb. 28:

"Tim, I just wanted to apologize for losing control in Germany. I was under immense pressure from my foreign friends and as I say the way things were going there I just really lost my control. Unfortunately, you were the recipient."

Waters says that he had no reason to make threats because this was "just business." The fact is that money laundering is not ordinary business.

He alleges that Jacobi used Boardman to blackmail the Marcos family. The allegation of blackmail is standard Marcos black propaganda and was first used by the Marcos family on July 17, 1991 after Jacobi had discovered their secret gold deposits at UBS. Waters is now using the same tactic.

We reject the suggestion that Jacobi directly or indirectly attempted to blackmail anyone. He has consistently supplied the PCGG with valuable information. It was only when the PCGG refused to act on this information that he decided to go public.

He has been successful in identifying the undisclosed assets of the Marcos family in Switzerland. Any suggestion that Jacobi's work is fraudulent is contradicted by the documented facts.

I cannot comment on Waters' reputation, but I can state what my own position is. For over 20 years I have been working as a lawyer specializing in investigating international fraud and money laundering. I have worked with numerous governments in sensitive investigations, and am recognized internationally as an expert in financial crime. My PhD in Law from Cambridge University in England was on "The Regulation of Corporate Fraud."

Victims of greed

Hutcherson, together with Waters, was the co-coordinator of the conspiracy attempt. This is shown by the various documents signed by Hutcherson on Feb. 14 and the critical role that he and Waters played in working with the Aranetas and Edna Camcam.

Hutcherson negotiated directly with the Aranetas and with Reyes. Waters played a background role, giving advice to both Hutcherson and Camcam.

No one solicited Hutcherson or Waters to engage in illegal acts. No one provided them with any inducements. No one told these sophisticated businessmen what to do. They are not the victims of an illegal sting operation. They are the victims of their own greed.

Marcoses to ask Greggy to explain

(From page A1)

The friend said the governor was both shocked and furious on reading an INQUIRER report on the Aranetas' alleged attempt to transfer huge amounts of money from the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) to a new account in a Deutsche Bank branch.

Governor Marcos, in a press conference in Laoag City, did not say whether he had personal knowledge of his sister and brother-in-law's trip to Dusseldorf, where German authorities are now investigating Irene for alleged "money laundering."

Bongbong and Irene were last seen together in public during pre-Lent celebrations in Paoay, Ilocos Norte, on Feb. 27, soon after Irene had reportedly arrived from Germany.

The governor challenged members of the Senate blue ribbon committee to go ahead and investigate Irene's alleged $13-billion account.

"They have everything, so do it. What are they waiting for?" Marcos said, adding that the committee had already investigated the account and found "nothing."

He told reporters that "the Araneta account is one of the accounts that I (authorized) the blue ribbon committee (to investigate). I signed a quit claim, I gave them authority to investigate that account three years ago."

"I told them, 'if you find anything, it's yours,'" he said.

Changed her mind

Ms Macapagal yesterday seemed to change her mind about relying solely on the Presidential Commission on Good Government, and decided to go full force in the government's efforts to investigate the Aranetas.

She called up Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday morning and told him to help the PCGG pursue the Marcos assets, particularly the Araneta accounts in UBS.

Perez was also tasked to coordinate with German investigators and to provide them whatever help they needed in matters of evidence.

"We will coordinate with the German authorities. We want to know what they have," he said.

He was scheduled to meet with PCGG acting chair Jorge Sarmiento at 2 p.m. yesterday, to be briefed on the case.

"We have to find out what is happening now. We are totally in the dark," Perez said, adding that all the information that the government had had come from the INQUIRER reports on the bank transactions.

"We have to do a lot of research," he said.

Perez clarified that the DOJ would just be assisting the PCGG, which would remain the principal government agency in charge of the recovering the Marcoses' wealth.

But he stressed that the President decided that more effort should be put into the matter.

Sarmiento said the justice secretary could be helpful in the preparation of official communication to the Swiss and German authorities since the DOJ would be "recognized" by the two governments.

German spies

In a report to the PCGG dated March 19, Ambassador Zaide said he had already instructed the embassy's defense attaché to "seek the cooperation of the German Secret Service."

Zaide said he gave the verbal instructions to Col. Emiliano Buyco, who was in Berlin on official business, last week, contrary to reports that the embassy officials have not asked for information or evidence from the German authorities.

Zaide also enclosed copies of the embassy's notes to the Federal Foreign Office and the representative office of North Rhine-Westphalia, asking for the help of the "proper authorities in verifying reports of the alleged deposit."

Wrong info

The ambassador has also "confronted" Johannes Mocken, spokesperson of the public prosecutor's office, for giving incorrect and misleading information to an INQUIRER reporter who recently interviewed him by phone.

In the phone interview, Mocken denied the PCGG statement that embassy officials had been meeting with German authorities to ask for information and evidence related to the transactions of the Araneta couple.

"Mocken clarified that he was answering cautiously the questions of the Manila journalist (Donna Cueto) since he did not know if he should tell the journalist . . the extent of cooperation (of German authorities) with Philippine government officials," Zaide said in his summary.

"So it's not true that the government has not made representations in Switzerland and Germany regarding the alleged money-laundering attempt," Sarmiento said in a press conference.

"They only need some specific information before we can file the petition for International Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters" that should facilitate Manila's inquiry, he said.

'Very willing'

He said the German authorities were "very willing" to cooperate with Manila and had agreed to furnish the PCGG with a copy of its investigative report on the Araneta couple's transactions in Dusseldorf and on the passports that were used.

"The whole world is watching out for the ($13) billion. I don't think they would risk being called uncooperative," Sarmiento said.

On March 15, Honorary Vice Consul Milagros Wandelt met with Dusseldorf Senior State Prosecutor Karl Heinz Esser, along with another public prosecutor investigating the Irene case, and a certain Jacobi, who was identified as an administrator at the Department of Public Prosecution.

In her report to Zaide, Wandelt said the German prosecutors could only confirm that an account under the name of Irene Marcos-Araneta had been opened at the Deutsche Bank.

The investigators had not confirmed whether the woman who opened the account was the real Marcos heiress.

Zaide had already requested the assistance of the German Foreign Office "in obtaining the cooperation" of the Dusseldorf prosecutors.

Open line

Perez said he would also seek the help of former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, who has been pushing the government since 1999 to recover Araneta's "885931" account and sub-accounts, which as of June 1998 allegedly contained $13.2 billion.

Chavez welcomed the involvement of the justice department, saying that his "line is open" as far as Perez was concerned.

"I am willing to work and cooperate with the DOJ under the leadership of Nani Perez, but I stop there. I cannot in true conscience work with the presently composed PCGG," he said.

Chavez said he was glad that the President had brought in the justice department, because "otherwise she would have wasted an extremely rare opportunity to be the instrument for effecting vindication for the Filipino people."

"I think this is an indication of a President who responds to the pulse of the public, particularly in matters of transcendental importance to the nation," he said.

David Chaikin, lawyer of Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi, also welcomed the news. "We'll be more than happy working with Chavez and the justice secretary," he said.

'Kind description'

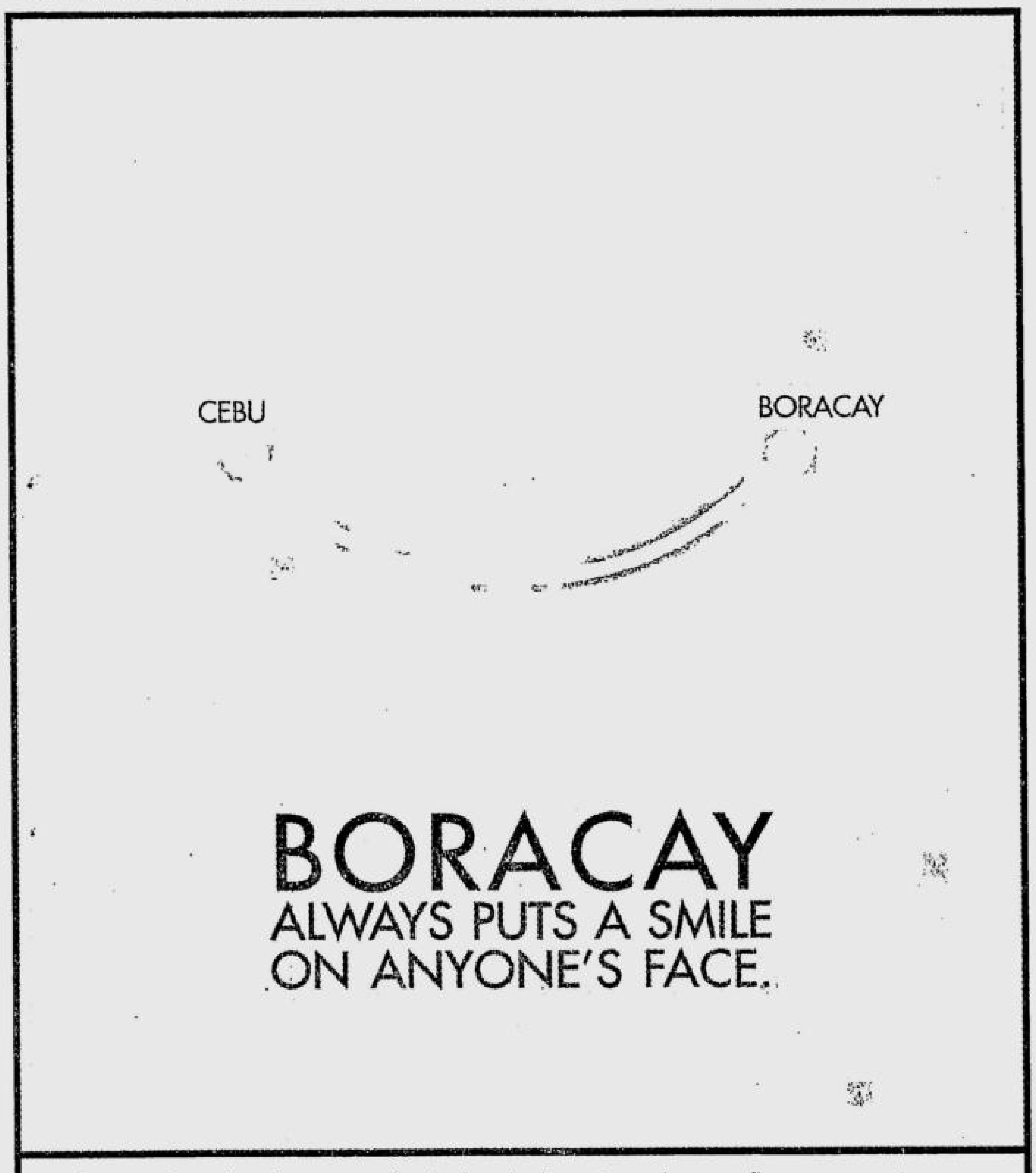
Marcos, for his part, described Jacobi as nothing but "a notorious liar whose goal is just to sniff around trying to find what money he can collect from anybody."

The governor said the Australian approached the Marcos family in 1987 and tried to collect some $2 million in exchange for the release of Marcos funds in Switzerland. But the Marcoses did not bite, Bongbong said, citing Jacobi's "incapability" to mount such an attempt.

Marcos said Jacobi then used the same tack when he went to Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, and next to the PCGG.

"What has he done? Nothing. What has he recovered? Nothing. What has he shown? Nothing," Marcos said.

"Now, what do you call him? Con man is a very, very kind way of describing (him). (It is an understatement) at the very least. He is certainly a con man but he is much worse than that," he added. *With reports from Christine Avendaño; Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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Asian Spirit
THE PEOPLE'S AIRLINE

Boyet lifts Purefoods past Red Bull

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
5:15 p.m. — Ginebra vs Mobiline
7:30 p.m. — Pop Cola vs Shell

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BOYET Fernandez flung a frantic three-pointer almost from midcourt in the last 38 seconds as Purefoods edged Batang Red Bull, 86-79, last night in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at Philsports.

It was some sort of a championship hysteria that broke out after Fernandez nailed it just in time to beat the 24-second clock.

"It was a gift from heaven," said Purefoods coach Eric Altamirano of the shot that boosted the Hotdogs up in the standings (5-6) after lagging in the lower rung for sometime.

The Hotdogs stretched their winning run to two and,inflicted the Thunder's second straight loss for a 6-4 record.

"My smallest guy delivered the biggest game tonight," added Altamirano.

Dindo Pumaren escaped with a fastbreak lay-up at the height of Alaska Milk's endgame comeback to lead Tanduay Gold to a 90-84 victory in the second game. The Rhummasters improved to 4-7, while the Aces fell to 5-6.

PUREFOODS 86--Patrimonio 21, Seigle 21, Castillo 19, Evangelista 14, Yee 6, Fernandez 4, Yap 1, Magsanoc 0, Feihl 0.

RED BULL 79--Agustin 16, Harp 15, Tugade 14, Raymundo 9, Mendoza 8, Briones 6, Valenzuela 4, Solis 3, Miller 2, Reyes 2, Tanpua 0.

Quarterscores: 18-26, 35-42, 62-62, 86-79.

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See Posters for Complete Details

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Bosch PSB 400RE Impact Drill ₱5,600 ₱3,199

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Bosch GSB 20-2 Impact Drill ₱7,200 ₱6,599

Bosch GWS 6-100 A. Grinder ₱2,950 ₱2,499

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Bosch GWS 8-100CE A. Grinder ₱4,100 ₱3,299

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Structurel def. Bars 12mm x 6m G33 L10%	79.92
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Marine Plywood 10mm x 4 x 8	520.00
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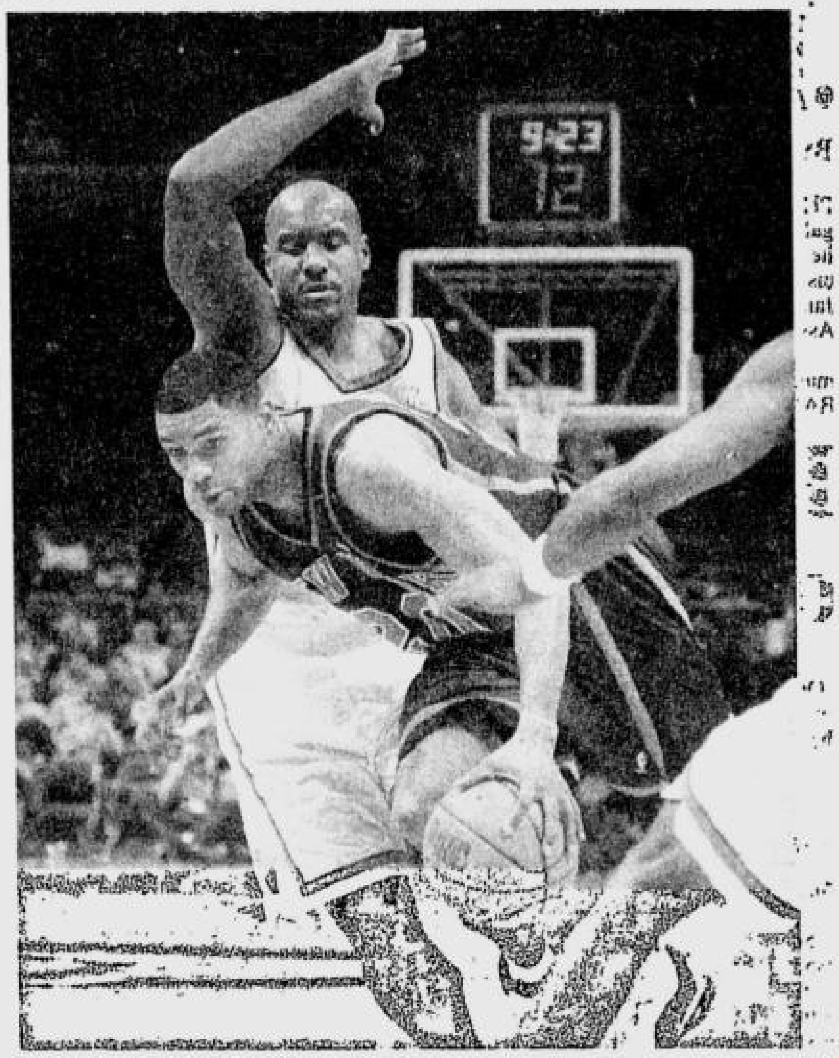

HOT HOUSTON

Allan Houston (with ball) of New York dribbles past Cleveland's Lamond Murray (left) and Bimbo Coles en route to scoring a career-high 39 points to power the Knicks to a 110-75 victory over the Cavaliers in NBA action. Other results: New York 110, Cleveland 75; New Jersey 104, Vancouver 90; Toronto 102, Indiana 81; Orlando 103, Chicago 95; Portland 96, Dallas 88; Utah 84, Detroit 79; Phoenix 105, Washington 91; Sacramento 125, Houston 109; L.A. Clippers 88, Philadelphia 77.
AP

GMA invited Elorde guest

PRESIDENT Arroyo has been invited as guest of honor and speaker during the first Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Boxing Awards, the highest honor for Filipino professional boxers, on Sunday at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel.

The Chief Executive will confer boxing's most prestigious award on the year 2000 world champions, led by Boxer of the Year Malcolm Tuñacao, in a gathering called the "Banquet of Champions" at 7 p.m.

Hosting the occasion is the Elorde family, led by the wife and sons and daughters of boxing legend Gabriel "Flash" Elorde.

Elorde is the greatest Filipino fighter ever. He was installed in the International Boxing Hall of Fame some years back as one of the greatest boxers of all time.

Chosen fights of Da Flash will be shown to invited guests, who will also get to see rare memorabilia—a wide selection of trophies, championship belts, fighting shoes, fighting pants and photos—during the late Elorde's long reign as junior lightweight champion in the late '50s through the '60s. These will be displayed at the venue starting at 6 p.m.

The other top honorees are Manny Pacquiao and Gerry Peñalosa (most exciting and popular boxers), Erbito Salavarria (best trainer), Silvestre Abainza (best referee), Alex Villacampa (best judge), Felixberto Jardenil (best matchmaker) and the Abner Cordero-Ricky Gayamo brawler, adjudged as the best fight of the year.

Honorees may call up the Elorde family for their invitations through nos. 820-9543 and 826-4463.

The affair is sponsored by Family Rubbing Alcohol, Enervon Prime, Phil. Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corp., Standard Appliances and Kameraworld.

Cebu fights slated

KNOCKOUT artist Rodel Mayol stakes his unblemished fight record when he collides with Korea's No. 1 mini-flyweight contender Jaeho Kim on March 31 a the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

In a historic first, promoter Sammy Gello-ani has lined up four foreign ringsters to do battle with the Philippine's top contenders dubbed as "War at the Waterfront" in the Grand Ballroom of one of Cebu's premier hotels.

Fresh from his recent victory in Japan where he outclassed the previously unbeaten Japanese prospect, Ken Nakajima, Mayol is undefeated in five fights, four of them by knockout. He is the No. 3 Philippine mini-flyweight contender.

Aside from the Mayol-Kim main attraction, RP Jr. welterweight champion Dindo Castañares battles Thailand No. 5 welterweight Dornchai Sakpanya in a 10-round non-title bout in what is also expected as another brawl.

Other bouts pit Philippine Boxing Federation lightweight titleholder Tirso Albia of the JMP Stable against Korean Kapchul Choi, Japan's Ryuichi Minoriyama against Mindanao's Jaime Barcelona, the No. 2 featherweight.

A victory by Mayol would push him to a shot at the OPBF crown.

The international boxing extravaganza also boasts of the first ring appearance as a professional of amateur boxing sensation and three time national gold-medalist ZCY Gorres who will take on Rudy Hibaya of Bukidnon.

Eagle Ridge golf set

A BLOCKBUSTER cast of 180 teams get their bids going starting tomorrow when the inaugural Eagle Ridge Invitational member-guest tournament fires off at the Dye and Faldo courses of the country's biggest golf complex in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Tee-off is shotgun style at 10:30 a.m.

The huge field will play one round each on both courses, with prizes staked for low gross honors and in classes A, B and C. A ladies division is also on tap.

Lucky players may go home with prizes like a residential lot from Sta. Lucia, an Opel Tigra sponsored by Golforce and two Chevrolet Cassia sedans put up by GG&A Club Development Inc. and GM AutoWorld Makati.

Outback Steakhouse, Pisanti, Pilipinas Golf and Unirock are the major backers of the tourney. The other sponsors are Readycon Trading & Construction Corp., Turf Co., Exan Builders and Sta. Lucia Readymix & Construction Corp. as major sponsors. The minor sponsors are RCBC, DC Star Gases, Imus Party Haus, Gerry's Buko Juice, Handyworks Manpower Services, Corp., Prime Deli Inc. and Erisson Enterprises.

Members and their guests are qualified to win the Opel Astra Wagon during Sunday night's raffle. Other raffle prizes include a Bose audio system, a laptop computer, video camera, digital camera, audio component, colored TV, refrigerator, gas range and washing machine.

Officials of Sta. Lucia Realty led by Exequiel Robles and Vicente Santos will be gracing the opening ceremonials together with Tommy Alcantara of their joint venture partner Alsons.

Que pads lead to 7

ANGELO Que fired a one-under-par 71 and stormed ahead by seven strokes in the men's championship class yesterday even as Judeson Eustaquio and Tony Sarmiento ruled their respective divisions in the second leg of the Titleist-Footjoy National Amateur Circuit at Valley.

Gunning down six birdies, reigning Philippine amateur champ Que posted a 36-hole total of 144, pulling away by seven strokes over Boyet Zaragosa (73-151) with Jun Bernis, Cookie LaO, Godofredo Sinfuego and Jerome Delariarte all tied at 153.

Pagunsan, just a shot behind Que before he teed off, soared to an 80 and was alone at 154.

Ruby Chico-Walker and Lucy Landicho both scored 78s to lead Heidi Chua by a stroke at the start of the 54-hole ladies championship of the event conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Jalasco still BAP head, POC lawyer insists

By June Navarro

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee legal counsel Victor Africa yesterday reiterated the POC Executive Board's decision to continue recognizing Freddie Jalasco as president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Africa, who acts as the POC spokesman on BAP-related matters, said that BAP chair Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat has taken over Jalasco's chores after Jalasco went on leave starting on Monday.

"The most compelling reason why the POC still supports Jalasco was primarily because of the POC policy to have national sports associations follow their respective charters, which Jalasco took to heart," said Africa.

"And to end the problem, we agreed in principle that the BAP elections be held sometime in June," he added.

Moreover, he said, there were "defects and infirmities when Literal (Quintellano) was elected BAP president."

He said Literal's camp veered away from the BAP charter by "tinkering with it overnight."

Africa also said the POC is not recognizing the Southeast Asian Basketball Association tournament April 2-9 in Manila, a tournament which Jalasco said the BAP will no longer host.

"Seaba and Asian Basketball Confederation officials keep on ignoring my plea for its staging. This is sabotage," said Jalasco.

He said a PBL-PBA selection will play in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games, an event that is "POC-sanctioned."

Meanwhile, Philippine Sports Commission Chair Carlos Tuason said he would support the staging of the Seaba "whoever runs it for the name of the country is at stake."

MBA bigwigs Santi Araneta and Ramon Tuason have decided to place all MBA players and coaching staff in the national team under the guidance and supervision of the PSC.

"I don't care what Cito (Dayrit) says. I'm not usurping power but this crisis is dragging on too long and we have to take a positive step," Tuason said.

In another development, Olympian rower Benjie Tolentino spearheaded the forming of an organization composed of bemedalled athletes.

Tolentino, who donned the national colors in last year's Sydney Olympics, said his group wanted to have a dialogue with the PSC to air their grievances.

"There's no politics involved here. The athletes will be the ones who will run the show," said Tolentino in Tagalog.

PCSO Cup on April 29

LOCAL horse racing's much-awaited summer classic returns to the San Lazaro Hippodrome on April 29 as the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, in cooperation with the Manila Jockey Club Inc., spearheads the renewal of the PCSO Silver Cup.

PCSO assistant general manager Israel Estrella announced yesterday the holding of the P1.6-million horse racing championship in a press conference at the Turf Room of the Manila Jockey Club Inc.

The winner will receive P1 million, runner-up P350,000, third placer P175,000 and fourth-placer P85,000.

"The featured race would now be officially known as the PCSO First Gentlemen Silver Cup, in honor of First Gentleman Jose Miguel T. Arroyo," said Jose Malang, chair of the PCSO committee on races.

PCSO chair Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" S. de Leon has invited Arroyo to attend the occasion and award the Silver Cup to the owner of the winning entry.

The final day of nomination is on March 27.

Among those present yesterday were Philippine Racing Commission Commissioner Ramon Balatbat and MJCI chair and president Alfonso Reyno Jr.

"The Philracom commends the PCSO and the MJCI for their laudable effort to ensure the continued staging of this annual horse racing classic," said Balatbat.

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Race 4—1. Power Corrupts 2. Glory Alleluia 3. Jomangie

Race 5—1. Raise A Fire 2. Hearts on Fire 3. Gold Prosperity 4. Bold Freddy 5. Strong Bird

Race 6—1. Reign of Glory 2. Michael's Way 3. Boomerang 4. Nervioso 5. Respect the Ace

Race 7—1. Fair Strike 2. Fire Mouth 3. Ever Green 4. Prestige 5. Forest Dancer

Race 8—1. Heavenly Wings 2. Grand Dancer 3. Don Benito 4. Enseguida 5. Waving Oscar

Caltex favored in motocross

THE CALTEX Revtex-KTM Racing Team tries to extend its dominance in the second leg of the National Motocross Super Series 2001: A Race of PLOT this Saturday at Fort Bonifacio.

Bannered by three-time motocross champion Glen Aguilar and Kenneth San Andres, Caltex Revtex-KTM riders are favored to win seven of 14 categories in this annual series organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp.

Aguilar is expected to duplicate his victories in the pro open and pro 125 categories in his brand-new KTM, while San Andres is favored to stamp his class anew in the mini category.

"With proper training and motivation, I think we (Caltex-KTM riders) can win more races in the future, especially with the entry of Kenneth in our team," said Aguilar, a former basketball-player-turned-motocross rider from Las Piñas.

San Andres, the 12-year-old elementary student who is also being supported by Viajero's, Access Plus, Dan's Bikeshop and Triumph Marketing, is the most dominant rider in the mini category for the last six years.

Ucap/Bumble finals

THE "7th Ucap/Bumble Bee Balbina Roadmaster Cobra Balbina 6-Cock derby" enters its championship round beginning at 6 tonight at Mandaluyong Coliseum, bannering more than 45 quality fights. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

Ten entries out of 37 posted two victories each Tuesday night. These are Starwars Sagupaan, Sir Vincent, Ariba Albay, JBB Blue Blade Balbina, Winning Time Jobo April 24-26, San Pedro GP Eagle, Arnis Mater, Albany, Guts and Glory and Bumble Bee Balbina.

With 1.5 points are Mandaluyong Coliseum International May 29 and Roadmaster Cobra Balbina.

Hosting this blockbuster event are businessman-sportsman Danding Cojuangco and the Balbina Group.

Meanwhile, the 8th Ucap Arnis Master 6-Cock Derby sizzles on March 27 and March 29 to be hosted by Raymond Velayo. On March 31, the "Sir Richard Sa Ucap 4-Cock Derby" will be held, with Richard Lim as host.

For inquiries, contact 747-4797, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

SPORTS ON TV

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GOLF: PGA Bay Hill Invitational, Final Round at 8 a.m. (r) and Tour Highlights at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

LPGA Standard Register Ping, Third Round at 8 p.m. on ESPN

BASKETBALL: US NCAA Tournament, South Regional Second Round at 1 p.m. (r- 7 p.m.) and Midwest Regional, Second Round at 3 p.m. (r- tomorrow at 12:30 a.m.) on Star Sports

TIVO NIT, Quarterfinals at 4 p.m. and tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on ESPN

NBA – Orlando Magic vs Indiana Pacers at 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13

TENNIS: Masters Series (Indian Wells), Highlights at 6 p.m. (r) on ESPN

WRESTLING: WCW Nitro at 9:30 p.m. on Star Sports

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Ericsson-Smart Zed tilt tees off

ALREADY pushed to the limit by the high level of play the past two legs, the job gets even tougher for the men on Tour as Cassius Casas and two other top guns return for the Ericsson-Smart Zed Sherwood Hills Classic starting today.

Casas, a disappointment in the MRT-Southwoods Open where he finished sixth, goes for some redemption as he leads the name players in this third leg of the Philippine Tour.

The tournament, however, lost its top seed to an injury.

Gerald Rosales, all set to make his first local appearance four months since ruling the Philippine Open, withdrew at the last minute due to nagging pains on his right wrist. He was advised to rest for the next two weeks.

Other hotshots like Cassius Casas, Rodrigo Cuello and Danny Zarate who have competed abroad the last four weeks, will be playing alongside invitees from the sponsoring Ericsson and Smart, members of the diplomatic corps and other VIPS in the accompanying pro-am competition.

Bantam Ben Arda, the living legend whose story inspired so many others to pursue a career in golf, will also join his old pals for the 36-hole College Assurance Plan Seniors Challenge as a special guest of the organizers.

"It's just a special week for the tour, a reunion not just of the best pros in the country but even big companies like Smart and Ericsson all for the love of golf," said Philippine Tour chair Bob Sobrepena.

Arda will join Sobrepena, Ericsson president Robert Ettehorn and Telecoms Specialist Inc. president Greg Atienza in hitting the ceremonial balls prior to the 8:30 a.m. shotgun tee-off.

Also backing the event which awards P100,000 to the winner are CAP, the Fil Estate Group of Companies, La Paz Holding & Dev't. Corp. and Metro Rail Transit.

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Police fear raps will backfire

CARD-CARRYING Ryan Jaworski gave policemen this calling card before allegedly escaping. ERIK ARAZAS

Drug raps filed vs Jawo son

By Alcuin Papa

DRUG-PUSHING charges were filed yesterday against Sen. Robert Jaworski's son Ryan Joseph and the latter's wife, but police fear the influence of the senator would make the courts ignore or dismiss the case.

The charges against Ryan Joseph Jaworski and his wife Bernadeth were filed with the office of city prosecutor Amador Pineda. Ryan, 24, is his father's chief of staff at the Senate.

However, police officials, who requested anonymity, expressed fears that nothing would happen to the case because of the influence and position of Senator Jaworski.

The policemen also fear that the charges would backfire.

"The policemen involved in the arrest only did their job," one police official said. "But they know not what would come out of it."

Police also filed drug-pushing charges against Michael Angelo Lytal Calimbahin, 29, of Iran Street, Barangay Pinagkaisahan, Makati. Calimbahin is said to be a former classmate of Ryan at the Ateneo University.

JAWO/A20

SUSPECTED pusher Calimbahin says he bought the shabu for himself. ERIK ARAZAS

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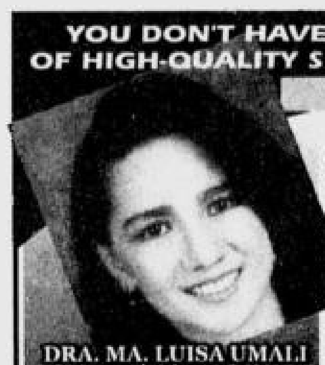

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The Largest Package Delivery Company in the World

Founded in 1907 as a messenger service by an enterprising 19-year-old teenager, the company has grown from an unpretentious five-man messenger operation, to what it is now – a $29-billion globe-spanning service.

Investments in the key areas of logistics, along with the sheer determination to continuously improve delivery services, has helped it grow its reach to over 200 countries and territories worldwide, allowing time-sensitive parcel delivery not only to major cities, but to the hinterlands as well. In the Philippines, for instance, UPS provides on-time delivery from any international origin to any point in the archipelago, giving new meaning to the line, "...from Aparri to Jolo."

And UPS has always been up to the task. As of last count, the company had almost 360,000 people working for it with one goal in mind – getting the package to the customer on time. The company's dedicated personnel work out of nearly 1,800 hubs and centers; drive over 150,000 vehicles of all shapes and sizes; and fly a collection of more than 500 aircraft – one of the largest fleets of its kind in the world. The company itself is so large, one always wonders how everything is managed so precisely in the first place.

Commitment to Service

The answer perhaps ultimately lies in the management philosophy of James Casey, UPS's founder. Jim Casey, as Mr. Casey was fondly called, nurtured an organization devoted solely to the furtherance of efficient, quality service. For Mr. Casey, the bottom line was not profit, it was the delivery of quality service in the most efficient way possible. In one of the company's celebrated management conferences, Jim Casey is said to have asked "Are we working for money alone? If so, there is no surer way not to get it." Indeed, Mr. Casey believed that when one adopted a disciplined, service-oriented mindset, profit was just a matter of course.

Even as it has evolved, Big Brown, as UPS has come to be called, has adhered strictly to this successful business model. Its famous operational drills are adopted the world over. Thus, if you were impressed with how the coffee-brown delivery guy courteously handed your *Lola* her package in Daly City, expect no less from the UPS driver in the side streets of Quezon City.

But the company's adherence to traditional values does not necessarily mean that it is not open to change. According to Matthew Ong, managing director of UPS-Delbros International Express, United Parcel Service's joint venture company in the Philippines, the company has always put a premium on flexibility. "It is because of the changing needs of the customers. If we didn't recognize the need to diversify, we wouldn't have had the chance to grow."

Focus on Customer Satisfaction

Ong proudly notes that the Philippine operation has been growing by leaps and bounds. "UPS has been registering double-digit growth since 1988, when the company began its Philippine operation. In fact, in 2000, we grew over 30 percent despite the fluctuations in the economy."

Invariably, the customer remains at the center of this impressive pace of growth. "We have come to establish mutually reinforcing relationships with our large customers, and equally important, with the small ones as well," reveals Ong. "We believe," says Ong, "that we should treat each customer as a partner. Such a mindset allows you to go one step further in making sure the needs of all are met."

And UPS constantly strives to ensure that its clients are satisfied. In the nineties, for instance, the company embarked on an $11-billion technology investment binge to support its e-commerce and process automation initiatives. The new technology arising from this investment now allows the company to virtually track the movement of packages traveling within the UPS system. What's more, the new tracking technology has also enabled customers to "electronically monitor" their packages from the minute these are bar-coded and scanned at UPS operations, until the time these arrive at their final destinations anywhere in the world. This commitment to technology and most importantly, to its people, continues to drive UPS' vision of "ENABLING GLOBAL COMMERCE."

Not at all bad for a company that moves 13 million packages every day.

The Men in Brown

UPS drivers have their fingers on the pulse of the city – and on the company's customers. That's why UPS places a premium on their training. UPS drivers go through one of the most rigorous training routines offered by any package delivery company around. Here in the Philippines, all drivers have to go through a strict orientation schedule that familiarizes them with the nuances of local operations – from weaving in and out of Manila's side streets, to package sorting and handling, to the fine art of customer relations. The result: UPS delivery people are often lauded for their courtesy and personalized service. In fact, some clients have become so familiar with certain UPS drivers that they've come to call on them on a first-name basis.

SECOND SUSPECT DIES

Cop shouldn't have shot 3 snatchers, says CPD chief

By Philip C. Tubeza

QUEZON City policeman PO2 Ruel Yepes might have violated police rules of engagement when he shot three young snatchers Tuesday, the head of the Central Police District said yesterday as a second suspect died from his bullet wound.

Chief Supt. Victor Luga said initial investigation showed that Yepes should not have shot Francis Mijares, 15; Richard Embile, 16; and Joel Defeo, 22, since they did not pose a clear threat to him.

Yepes shot the three young men Tuesday morning with his 9 mm. service firearm after they allegedly snatched the cellular phone of a Saint Luke's Hospital nurse near the corner of Araneta Avenue and E. Rodriguez Boulevard.

Luga explained that policemen could use their gun only when there is imminent danger to their life. But he added that the three suspects were members of a notorious group of criminals preying on commuters at the busy intersection.

He also ordered a thorough investigation of one the suspect's allegation that a policeman, whom the suspect identified as Galvez, ordered them to steal.

Defeo's mother Yolanda, 43, said his son told her a certain Galvez had made them do the stealing. The INQUIRER learned that PO1 Socrates Galvez is à member of the Galas main police station.

Embile allegedly named another rookie policeman, assigned to Galas Block 3. But Yolanda said her son did not mention the policeman's name.

Another count of homicide was added to Yepes' charge sheet after Embile died at the East Avenue Medical Center at 1:40 p.m. Tuesday. The policeman had shot Embile in the back and the bullet went out just below his throat, said investigator SPO1 Efren Sobrepeña.

Witnesses said that before Yepes started shooting, he slipped into the creek under a bridge on E. Rodriguez Avenue, where the three suspects had run to hide.

Yepes was said to have been about 15 feet from the three suspects when he fired the first shot and hit Mijares in the head. As Embile was helping Mijares, Yepes allegedly shot Embile in the back before firing at Defeo.

Defeo was hit in the back also. Still, he was still able to run home to his mother Yolanda.

Yepes had a different version of what happened, Sobrepeña said.

Yepes told investigators he had gone after the three suspects but two more young men appeared, blocked his path and tried to stab him.

He claimed he heard gunshots and, thinking he was being shot, he fired at the suspects, Sobrepeña said.

It was not known what happened to the two cohorts, but Yolanda Defeo admitted that two unidentified young men were also involved. She, however, insisted that her son and his companions did not try to fight Yepes.

She told the INQUIRER that policeman Galvez ordered Embile around 2 a.m. Tuesday to snatch a cell phone for his girlfriend.

"Because my son and Richard (Embile) were friends, he went with Richard," Yolanda said.

She said Mijares and the two other unidentified young men joined her son and Embile only later.

Aunor's campaign office shot

IRIGA CITY—The campaign office of gubernatorial candidate Nora Aunor in Barangay San Jose, this city, was shot three times at 1 p.m. Tuesday, a police report said.

But initial police investigation showed that the motive for the shooting was apparently personal and not political.

A certain Nory Tayo, Aunor's close-in assistant, had a heated argument with a man who owns a Ford Expedition. Before the unidentified man left, he shot Aunor's office three times, police said.

Investigators said Tayo declined to cooperate, name the unidentified man or disclose the motive for the shooting.

Aunor was in a meeting with her leaders at the University of Northeastern Philippines when the shooting occurred, police said. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

AUNOR

Two Makati teeners are top suspects in Claudine killing

By Michael Lim Ubac

TWO MAKATI teeners top the National Bureau of Investigation's list of suspects after witnesses linked them to the March 10 rape and killing of Claudine Mabel Feliciano.

The NBI Special Action Unit (SAU) has placed the two under intensive surveillance and yesterday sent two more teams to track down the two young men. SAU agents are trying to find out if the two young men are indeed residents of Palanan, Makati, as witnesses claimed.

The identities of the two suspects, as well as a third, are being withheld, SAU chief Edmund Arugay said. The identity of the fourth man is still a mystery, he said.

SAU agents already know where the three suspects live. The NBI is just waiting for the proper time to arrest them.

Agents said the teeners were seen together with two other suspects when they alighted from Feliciano's black Mazda sedan before dawn on March 11 in Barangay Bangkal, Makati.

Witnesses said the two men were among those who ate at a restaurant in Barangay Bangkal hours after raping and killing Feliciano, one SAU investigator said.

The agents said the two were frequently seen hanging around posh villages in Parañaque City.

Aside from the two, the agents are looking for another suspect, who is in his mid or late 20s. The man has curly black hair and stands 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-9.

The suspect belongs to a middle-class family and is not a resident of Makati or Parañaque. The NBI plans to use the suspect to track down his three other companions who are now on the run.

The suspect is also said to be a drug pusher.

On Tuesday, a businessman appeared at the NBI and claimed he could identify one of the suspects.

The businessman told the NBI that he saw one of the suspects alight from Feliciano's car in Barangay Bangkal, the same spot where the car was recovered a few days after the killing.

The lawmen found out that the car was actually abandoned by the suspects right after the aborted abduction of another woman on March 11 in Parañaque City.

Valenzuela judge charged with taking P10,000 bribe

By Michael Lim Ubac

A VALENZUELA CITY judge who was caught red-handed receiving P10,000 in bribe was charged before the Sandiganbayan yesterday.

Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito P. Gervacio quickly initiated criminal proceedings against Valenzuela regional trial court Judge Jaime F. Bautista of branch 75.

Ombudsman investigators found probable cause to indict Bautista, a resident of Bloomingdale Subdivision in Angono, Rizal, after he was caught in the act of receiving P10,000 from complainant Ranel T. Paruli, liaison officer of Sierra Madre Transportation Corp. Inc.

Paruli asked the help of the National Bureau of Investigation which conducted an entrapment operation on Tuesday.

After Bautista's inquest yesterday morning, the Ombudsman immediately filed the bribery case, punishable under Article 210 of the Penal Code.

"The Ombudsman evaluated the documents and affidavits of the complainant and apprehending officers," Gervacio said. "Since it was summary in nature, we did not let Bautista submit his counter-affidavit. We immediately resolved the case on the basis of the allegations of the complainant and apprehending officer."

ERIK ARAZAS

BAUTISTA (left) is charged before the Sandiganbayan.

Bautista was allowed to post a bail of P24,000.

In a resolution prepared by Ombudsman prosecutors Emmanuel M. Laurezo and Jose T. De Jesus Jr., Paruli said Bautista demanded P10,000 from him in exchange for a favorable court order in connection with a civil case.

The case was filed by Claudia Cadlum and Rolando Millare against SMTCI, a company engaged in the public transportation business.

Paruli claimed that on March 16, Bautista received P5,000 as initial payment. But unknown to Bautista, Paruli filed a complaint against the judge with the NBI's Intelligence Special Operations Division.

On March 20, Paruli, accompanied by NBI agents, handed P5,000 in marked money to the judge.

Driver of truck that killed 14 to yield soon

THE driver of the oil truck that plowed into a fisherman's wharf in Paranaque City on Monday and killed 14 people is set to surrender, police said yesterday.

Parañaque Police Traffic Division chief Senior Insp. Erma Marquez said Gilbert Galleron is due to turn himself in.

"The employer of Galleron, Mr. Ernie Gopez of DP Freight Company, told us the suspect has sent surrender feelers to them," Marquez said.

When Galleron turns himself in, he will face charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide, multiple injuries and abandonment of injured persons, the policewoman said.

On Monday morning, Galleron's oil truck plowed into a busy fisherman's wharf in Barangay La Huerta, Parañaque City. The truck slammed into four other vehicles, causing an explosion which killed 14 people and injured six others.

Among those killed were Emelita Yansom, 42, of Mendez, Cavite; Leonida Barroga, 41, of Salinas, Rosario, Cavite; Emelita Sabalboro and Orlando Sabalboro Jr. 19, both of Imus, Cavite; and Danilo Benguello, 36, of Barangay Salawag, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Marquez also identified the six persons injured as Efren Taghoy, 36, of Dasmariñas, Cavite; Joseph Alejandro, 38, of San Dionisio, Parañaque; Rosie Lozada, Jamil Macapodi, of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan; and Christian Domancas, 31, of Pangasinan, and a member of the Philippine Navy. *Alcuin Papa*

Booby trap explodes in policeman's face

THE REPORTED power struggle in the ranks of the Caloocan police force has turned ugly when a "booby trap" injured a police official.

Supt. Bonifacio Noval, said to be a strong candidate for deputy police chief, yesterday suffered mild burns on the face and arms from an alleged booby trap allegedly planted by his opponent's henchmen.

Newly installed Caloocan police chief Supt. Benjardi Mantele downplayed reports of the supposed power rift.

But a police insider yesterday said Noval and another key officer are at each other's throat over the second highest position in the force.

Noval, who heads the Police Community Relations and Accomplishments section, had just arrived at his office at about 9 a.m. yesterday when he noticed an onion skin paper in the back of the door, the source said.

Thinking it was official correspondence, Noval unfolded the paper and a powdery substance fell on his face and arms, causing a nasty sting similar to that caused by of a tear gas, the source said.

"Obviously, someone set up the trap for Noval," the source said. "He's being harassed because he's likely to get the position."

Noval went to the Philippine National Railway Hospital for check-up after he suffered rashes due to the powder burst, the source said.

The Caloocan Scene of the Crime Operatives division is investigating the still unknown substance in Camp Crame. *Christian Esguerra*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, March 22, 2001
3rd Week of Lent

1st Reading: **Jer 7:23-28**
Gospel: **Lk 11:14-23**

One day Jesus was driving out a dumb demon. When the demon had been driven out, the mute person could speak, and the people were amazed. Yet some of them said, "He drives out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the chief of the demons." So others wanted to put him to the test by asking him for a heavenly sign.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every nation divided by civil war is on the road to ruin, and will fall. If Satan also is divided, his empire is coming to an end. How can you say that I drive out demons by calling upon Beelzebul? If I drive them out by Beelzebul, by whom do your fellow members drive out demons? They themselves will give you the answer.

But suppose I drive out demons by the finger of God; would not this mean that the kingdom of God has come upon you? As long as the strong and armed man guards his house, his goods are safe. But when a stronger one attacks and overcomes him, the challenger takes away all the weapons he relied on and disposes of his spoils.

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me, scatters."

Commentary:

Exploited people frequently live in a culture of muted silence. Once however, they realize their God-given powers and wake up to a deceitful reality around them, they wonderfully speak words of wisdom and courage. Those responsible for such exploitation will, of course, not tolerate their loss of control and privilege. Thus, false imputations. How many of our powerful and rich manipulate facts and processes just to suit their interests at the expense of the poor, whom they want simply to kowtow to them? Let them listen to the voice of God, not only in the strident cries of the conscientized poor but also in the muted silence of still many of them. Would that Jeremiah's lament not be true: "This is the nation which does not listen to the voice of the Lord, its God, or take correction. Faithfulness has disappeared; the word itself is banished from their speech."

New LTO chief is strict

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF THE Land Transportation Office (LTO) continues to issue driving licenses to people who don't know how to drive and read traffic signs, there will be road accidents similar to the ones that happened on the Coastal Road in Parañaque and in Bocaue, Bulacan. A total of 25 people were killed in both accidents.

Both accidents involved speeding vehicles.

Our roads are not safe because the LTO in the past was not strict in issuing driving licenses. Fixers, in connivance with LTO personnel, facilitated the issuance of driving licenses to people who didn't even take driving lessons.

***

Anybody who was old enough to apply for a driver's license could easily get one by employing hangers-on at LTO offices who had connections with LTO personnel.

For a sum, a fixer could get an applicant a driver's license and the applicant didn't have to take an examination. The test questions were answered by the fixer who then submitted the test to some unscrupulous LTO personnel.

The issuance of driving licenses was so indiscriminate that years ago, a blind person who was planted by a TV program was able to get a driving license.

***

Luckily for us, the newly installed LTO chief, retired Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, has driven out fixers from the premises of the LTO main office.

People with no official business with the LTO are told to leave. If they still linger on despite repeated requests for them to leave, they're arrested.

Abenina has also set up a hotline for fast action on citizens' complaints.

As a result, the new LTO chief has been receiving death threats. But they can't scare a former military man like Abenina.

***

What's wrong with just-retired Gen. Angelo Reyes being appointed as defense secretary?

Most of his predecessors, except Orlando Mercado and Juan Ponce Enrile, were retired military men. Retired military officers make excellent defense chiefs because they've been exposed to military affairs all their lives. It's like throwing a turtle in the water.

But being a former general is not the only qualification of Reyes. He is a Harvard management graduate.

***

Don't blame President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo if she flares up sometimes while answering questions from reporters. Sometimes, my colleagues in media ask irrelevant questions.

Like when GMA was asked why she would leave it to the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to investigate the alleged attempt of Irene and Greggy Araneta to move Swiss funds into Germany.

"The PCGG is part of the government," GMA replied. "That's why we have different departments because they have to do what they have to do."

She's right. Why should she not leave PCGG to do its job? A good manager knows how to relegate tasks. And there's no reason to think at this point that GMA is not a good manager.

***

By the way, why doesn't the new PCGG management revoke the contracts it awarded to the cronies of deposed President Erap to set up businesses at the 18-hectare piece of land bounded by Ortigas and Meralco avenues in Pasig?

The lot is managed by the PCGG but is on lease to friends of Erap who were given sweetheart deals.

The contracts, of course, are disadvantageous to the government.

***

I doff my hat to my friend, Pangasinan Rep. Benjie Lim, for having agreed to give way to Joe de Venecia in the May elections. JDV is reportedly out to reclaim the speakership, apparently with the administration's backing.

Lim's giving way to JDV was a huge sacrifice, considering the youthful first-termer congressman had a good chance to retain his seat because of his hold on the district's young voters.

But he had to give way to his former benefactor. Benjie Lim knows how to pay a debt of gratitude.

***

There's anarchy in the streets because drivers don't follow traffic laws.

The most common violation of drivers in Metro Manila is passing the red light.

My personal observation is that only one in, say, 20 drivers stops at a red light.

***

A couple of years ago, I lost my cool because a driver behind me wanted me to cross a red light.

I don't mean to trumpet my obedience to traffic rules, but I stop at a red light. No ifs and buts about it, my car goes to a complete stop when the traffic light turns red. I stop even in the wee hours of the morning when there are very few vehicles on the streets.

Anyway, when I stopped at the red light on East Avenue, the driver of a passenger jeepney directly behind me blew his horn. Remember, we were in front of a hospital where blowing of horns is forbidden.

Using my left hand, I signaled the jeepney driver to overtake me. He did, but he stopped on the right side of my car. You know what the jerk did? He spat on my window and proceeded to cross the red light.

That jerk probably has never forgotten the lesson in good manners this writer gave him.

Jawo son charged

(From page A19)

Police arrested Calimbahin allegedly while trying to sell Ryan and his wife a sachet of shabu Monday afternoon, according to Senior Insp. Cesar Garcia, chief of the Makati police drug enforcement unit.

Police said that when they tried to invite the senator's son for questioning, Ryan fled with Bernadette on board a Ford F150 (RJJ-111).

Senior Insp. Garcia said that as Ryan fled, he almost ran over PO2 Ramon de Ocampo.

Policemen said they seized from Calimbahim 1.5 grams of shabu in a transparent plastic sachet and two P500 bills allegedly paid to him by Ryan.

Calimbahin denied he sold the shabu to Ryan, saying he bought it for himself. However, he did not tell police where he bought the drugs and from whom.

A chemical analysis conducted by the Southern Police District crime laboratory confirmed that the substance in the plastic sachet was indeed shabu.

Unknown to Calimbahin, DEU agents led by Insp. Marcia Fa-ed were already tailing him. They arrested him as he handed the sachet to Ryan, whose Ford F150 was parked at the corner of Edsa and Iran Street in Barangay Pinagkaisahan, Makati City.

When policemen accosted him, Ryan introduced himself as Senator Jaworski's son and gave them a calling card before driving away.

Alay Lakad '01

THE OUR Lady of the Rosary Parish in Maysan, Valenzuela City will hold Alay Lakad 2001 on April 21 to promote awareness of the May elections.

With the theme "*Mulat na Gamitin ang Karapatan sa Darating na Halalan*," the event is organized by the parish committee on service headed by Ed G. Buyot and secretaries Jimmy Constatino and Gemie Drueco and education head Nap V. Baga.

All local candidates are invited to join the affair that will also involve different parish organization and committees, homeowners associations, parish mini-councils, barangay councils and labor organizations.

Spiritual directors will be parish priest Fr. Albert Suatengco and parish vicar Fr. Eric Bagay. For details, call 292-5785 or 432-9810.

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7	DTS	BAIT
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HANNIBAL
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6	ULTRA SURROUND	PANABLA
7	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
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7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
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1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 PANABLA
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 PANABLA
3 (DTS) OOOPS TEKA LANG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 (DTS) TOO MUCH FLESH
3 (DOLBY) OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 PANABLA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 PANABLA
3 OBJECT OF OBSESSION
4 (DTS) OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 (DTS) PURPLE STORM
4 PANABLA
5 TOROTOT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 PANABLA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 OOOPS TEKA LANG
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 PURPLE STORM

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 NURSE BETTY
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 BLONDIE

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 PURPLE STORM

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 TOO MUCH FLESH
3 PANABLA
4 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Cabuyao
CINEMAS TEL. (049) 5314808
1 (DTS) OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 (DTS) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 TOROTOT
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OOOPS TEKA LANG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DRACULA 2000
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 PURPLE STORM

Berma
tel 879.2168
1 PANABLA
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 PANABLA
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 RESERVE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 WEDDING PLANNER
4 (DTS EX) MS. CONGENIALITY

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a special presentation

Cherie Gil is celebrity storyteller at theme park

AWARD-WINNING actress Cherie Gil will be the featured celebrity storyteller at Enchanted Kingdom on Saturday, March 24.

Gil, who starred in several critically acclaimed movies such as "Manila After Dark," "Oro, Plata, Mata," "Imortal" and "Bituing Walang Ningning," will share wonderful tales to park guests and the pediatric wards of Kythe Inc., a foundation dedicated to providing psycho-social care for cancer-stricken children and their families.

On March 31, featured storyteller is show biz newcomer Jeanette McBride. The 17-year-old actress who was born in Queensland, Australia, currently stars in ABS-CBN TV shows like "Richard Loves Lucy" and "Tabing Ilog."

Enchanted Kingdom's regular celebrity storytelling is an outreach activity of the park since it opened in 1995.

More fun awaits Enchanted Kingdom visitors. In April, the park will inaugurate the Rio Grande River Rapids, its newest ride attraction that will offer all the excitement of water rafting.

Enchanted Kingdom is open from 2 to 9 p.m., Wednesdays to Fridays; and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

For inquiries call 830-2111 to 17 (Makati office) or 842-6073 to 78 (Laguna office).

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❷ WEDDING PLANNER
❸ CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
❹ CHOCOLAT
❺ BAIT
❻ QUILLS
❼ THE GIFT

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❸ PANABLA
❹ THE GIFT
❺ SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
❻ OOOPS, TEKA LANG

BACOLOD
(034)441-0453
❶ PAY IT FORWARD
❷ OOOPS, TEKA LANG
❸ WOMAN ON TOP
❹ SNATCH
❺ HANNIBAL
❻ TUHOG

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BAIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THE GIFT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	QUILLS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PANABLA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	CHOCOLAT
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
MIRAMAR	NAGHUHUMIYAW / WHIPPED
ODEON	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
ODEON-2	PANABLA
ROBEN	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	HIGHLANDER / LOST SOUL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
QUEZON-1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
REMAR	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
REMAR-2	OOOPS TEKA LANG
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-A	SELOSA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	MADAME X
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	QUILLS
CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-2	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-3	PANABLA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-6	TOO MUCH FLESH
CINEMA-7	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-8	PURPLE STORM
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BAIT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE GIFT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-12	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-14	QUILLS
CINEMA-15	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	MALIKOT D/W NAKED LIES
CINEMA-3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	QUILLS
CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-3	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-4	THE GIFT
CINEMA-5	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-6	BAIT

MTV rebirth concert

LAST Feb. 17, more than 15,000 people flocked to The Fort to witness MTVs rebirth concert. The all-night musicfest was top-billed by foreign acts Collective Soul and Plus One, with leading local artists such as Barbie's Cradle, Brownbeat All Star, Cynthia Alexander, The Dawn, Eraserheads, Grace Nono, Kaya, Lani Misalucha, Parokya ni Edgar, Passage, Pops Fernandez, Razorback, Rivermaya, Sandwich, Side A, Slapshock, Teeth and Wolfgang.

If you weren't lucky enough to have been there in person or if you just want another dose of pure music, watch the rebirth concert Special on MTV Philippines UHF Channel 41 on March 25, Sunday, 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

For Sky Cable subscribers, catch it on CH32, and for Home Cable subscribers on CH41, at these same times.

The event was made possible by Coca-Cola, San Miguel Beer, Smart Zed and Nescafé Frothé.

Hyatt Regency Manila was the official residence.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Two-dimensional portrayal

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ON Channel 7's "Larawan" two Wednesdays ago, **Ruffa Gutierrez** starred in the first of a limited series of productions showcasing her as a dramatic talent. She played a TV reporter who rose to the top of the news heap through sheer dint of cold-blooded determination.

Early in the show, she was shown pressuring a victim to burst into tears to raise the news program's ratings. That's why she was promoted to the co-anchor slot opposite a veteran "star" of the news department, played by **Cherie Gil**.

Yes, Ruffa's first "Larawan" show was like the TV news version of "Bituing Walang Ningning," with Ruffa stepping into **Sharon Cuneta**'s shoes and Cherie giving her signature "star tormentor" role another trot 'round the park!

As expected, Cherie's character hated the very idea of sharing her show with an ambitious tyro like Ruffa, so she ordered an employee to do some sleuthing and discovered the skeleton rattling around in Ruffa's closet: She had a mother (**Daria Ramirez**) afflicted with a horrible skin disease whom Ruffa refused to acknowledge and kept hidden away from the public eye.

Despite the efforts of Daria and her son (**Wowie de Guzman**) to reach out to Ruffa, the new TV star refused to be associated with them—until Cherie's investigator let the cat out of the bag by showing a videotape that humiliated Ruffa in front of her colleagues in the news department.

Of course, one wondered why Ruffa allowed the incriminating tape to be shown in full!—But that's just one of the problems we had with this episode. Much more disturbing was Ruffa's two-dimensional portrayal of the lead character.

Ruffa was okay in the scenes that required her character to be cold and scheming, but she failed to show the TV reporter's other, more vulnerable side.

As written, the character was rich and emotionally varied enough to allow a good actress to go to town in the role, but Ruffa didn't have the depth and emotional range to do justice to the part.

Cherie's characterization came through with greater impact. And, with even fewer scenes, Daria and Wowie came through bet of all, simply because they had the thespic power and sense of truth that exceptional acting requires.

Ruffa is an outstanding beauty and serviceable actress but, if she accepts challenging roles like her lead part in her first "Larawan" episode, she must come up with much more than that, if she doesn't relish the thought of being found wanting.

Scholarships for Mass Communication teachers

THE GRADUATE program of the Department of Communication at De La Salle University has two full-tuition scholarships available for teachers of Mass Communication.

If you teach Mass Communication in a college or university recognized by the Commission on Higher Education, and your school will allow you to study full-time for one and a half years (through a deloading scheme or leave with pay), check out the M.A. program in Applied Media Studies at DLSU.

The Program includes three areas—film and TV, journalism, and interactive multimedia.

Entrance tests are scheduled on March 27, April 3 and April 17. For more details, call the College of Liberal Arts Graduate School Program at tel. No. 524-4611 (local 328).

For information about the program, call the Department of Communication Graduate Program at tel. No. 524-4611 (local 322), or e-mail the Coordinator at clacam@dlsu.edu.ph.

'Eezy Dancing' instructional

CATCH EZDI on "Eeezy Dancing" every Sunday at 9 p.m. on ABC-5 for instructional in Latin and Standard dancing. EZDI features leading dancesport athletes and personalities like segment host **Becky Garcia, Ednah Ledesma, Egai Bautista** and **Acel Gallardo.**

'Asia Business Morning'

"ASIA Business Morning," CNN International's breakfast financial program (M-F at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 a.m., Philippine time), brings viewers an in-depth look at financial markets around the world, specifically in the Asia Pacific region.

Presented by Andrew Stevens, the half-hour show is broadcast live from Hong Kong. It offers live reports from New York to review the day's trading on Wall Street, analysis of stock market action in Europe, and previews of how Asian markets are expected to open.

It also includes in-depth coverage of major economic statistics and corporate earnings, important business conferences and interviews with business and political leaders.

Cody Moreno: Music has always been my savior

BY MARINEL R. CRUZ

BEFORE Filipino-American singer Cody Moreno first visited Tondo, Manila, he had heard many discouraging tales about the alleged dangers and difficulties of the place. But he found that Tondo "was not what I expected."

Cody grew up in the United States but he has a brother-in-law whose family lives in Tondo.

Cody was one of several artists who performed in a series of barangay shows dubbed as "*Handog-Saya* for the *Masa*," hosted by Love Radio 91.5. He described the show in Tondo as the "best barangay show I ever got to do."

He said the Manila district whose name was often associated with risks was "wasn't really *magulo*. The crowd was positively receptive. You could see the gladness on their faces."

Late last month, Cody joined the INQUIRER's post-Valentine celebration titled "Happy Hearts at INQUIRER," which was meant to raise funds for the Philippine Cancer Society.

Cody said that a few years ago, his own mother also had cancer "but the tumor was taken out. She was one of the lucky ones to have survived it.

"So," he added, "that makes it (performing in the fund raiser) more meaningful for me."

Cody was born in the Philippines of an American Chinese father and a Filipino Spanish mother. When he was 8, the family migrated to the United States.

Music, he said, has always been a big part of his life. Living in a new country was tough, he recalled. "*Naninibago kaming lahat*," he said. "And music broke the ice for me.

"Before living in California, we lived in New Jersey. And what made me accepted right away was music. I joined a choir. From then on, music has sort of been my savior."

Cody was the first-ever Asian member of Camerata, a performing group he joined in high school.

He recalled singing Basil Valdes' song "You" to a panel of all-American judges, and the feat earned him an Herb Alpert scholarship, a music grant given yearly to talented youths.

"I sang it and they loved the song," he said. "I won the scholarship because of that song."

Sadly, though, he was not able to continue using the scholarship because he had to work. He later shifted to international business, major in marketing.

After college, Cody decided to visit the Philippines. He remembered to bring along a demo tape he did with some of his Filipino-American friends.

"When I came, I really wanted to sing but it didn't happen right away," he said. "*Na-typecast ako eh*. They look at me and they go 'you're a model and an actor.'"

For a year and a half, Cody was doing anything but singing. He got so frustrated that he even thought of quitting. "Although the money was good and the exposure was great, what I really wanted was to sing," he said.

Finally, his current manager, Wowie Roxas, invited him to perform in a show in Japan. It has since been a steady climb for Cody the singer.

Everything else started falling into place. He had a lot of shows, has been out of the country a few times already and is now promoting his self-titled album from Icon Records, distributed by Star Records.

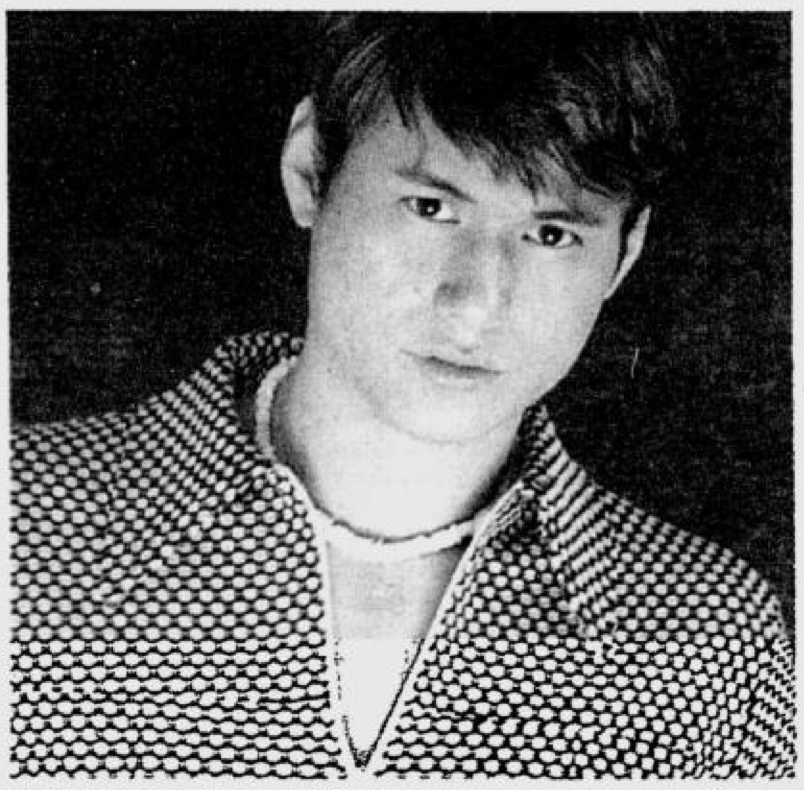
The album contains 10 tracks, with "Nakikiusap," written by Lito Camo, as carrier single. Moreno described the song as a story "about a man begging the woman he loves not to leave him."

Also out is the jumpy tune "Void in My Heart" and "Binibining Pilipinas," which he said talks about how beautiful the Filipina is inside out.

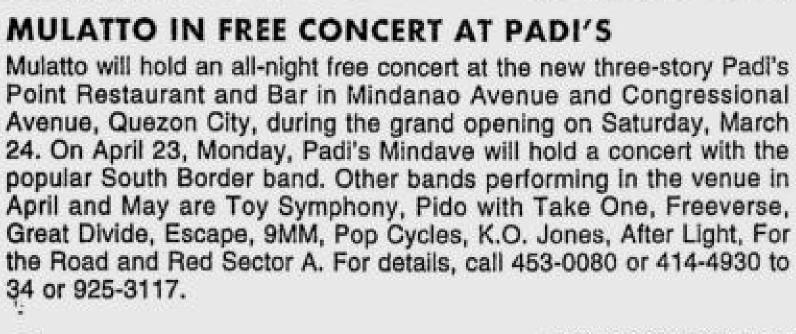
"*Ang talino niya, ang karisma niya* also makes her beautiful," he explained. "I think this is something all Filipino females will appreciate."

Cody recently did mall shows with Jessa Zaragosa and will be seen on Star Drama Special with Judy Ann Santos.

CODY is welcomed to PDI by credit and collection's Amy Salvador.



HOME is the performer, but Cody started as a model, not a singer.



MULATTO IN FREE CONCERT AT PADI'S

Mulatto will hold an all-night free concert at the new three-story Padi's Point Restaurant and Bar in Mindanao Avenue and Congressional Avenue, Quezon City, during the grand opening on Saturday, March 24. On April 23, Monday, Padi's Mindave will hold a concert with the popular South Border band. Other bands performing in the venue in April and May are Toy Symphony, Pido with Take One, Freeverse, Great Divide, Escape, 9MM, Pop Cycles, K.O. Jones, After Light, For the Road and Red Sector A. For details, call 453-0080 or 414-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

Summer workshops

THE CENTER for Communication Arts Inc. serves as the educational arm of ABS-CBN whose main task is to provide continuing education in the field of performing and communication arts.

In a year of operation, the center has produced highly talented individuals who have established a booming career in the entertainment and broadcasting industry.

The center announces its annual summer workshops in April and May. Courses offered are basic and advance acting, voice, modern jazz, street dance, speech and public speaking, personality development, arts and crafts, TV production, commercial production and news production.

The workshops are open to age 4 to 35.

For details, call 924-4101/415-2272 local 5248/5246/5245 or 416-9366/415-3828.

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QUILLS - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	CHOCOLAT - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05	WEDDING PLANNER - P 13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
THE GIFT - P 13 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	CROUCHING TIGER - P 13 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30	BAIT - R 18 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40

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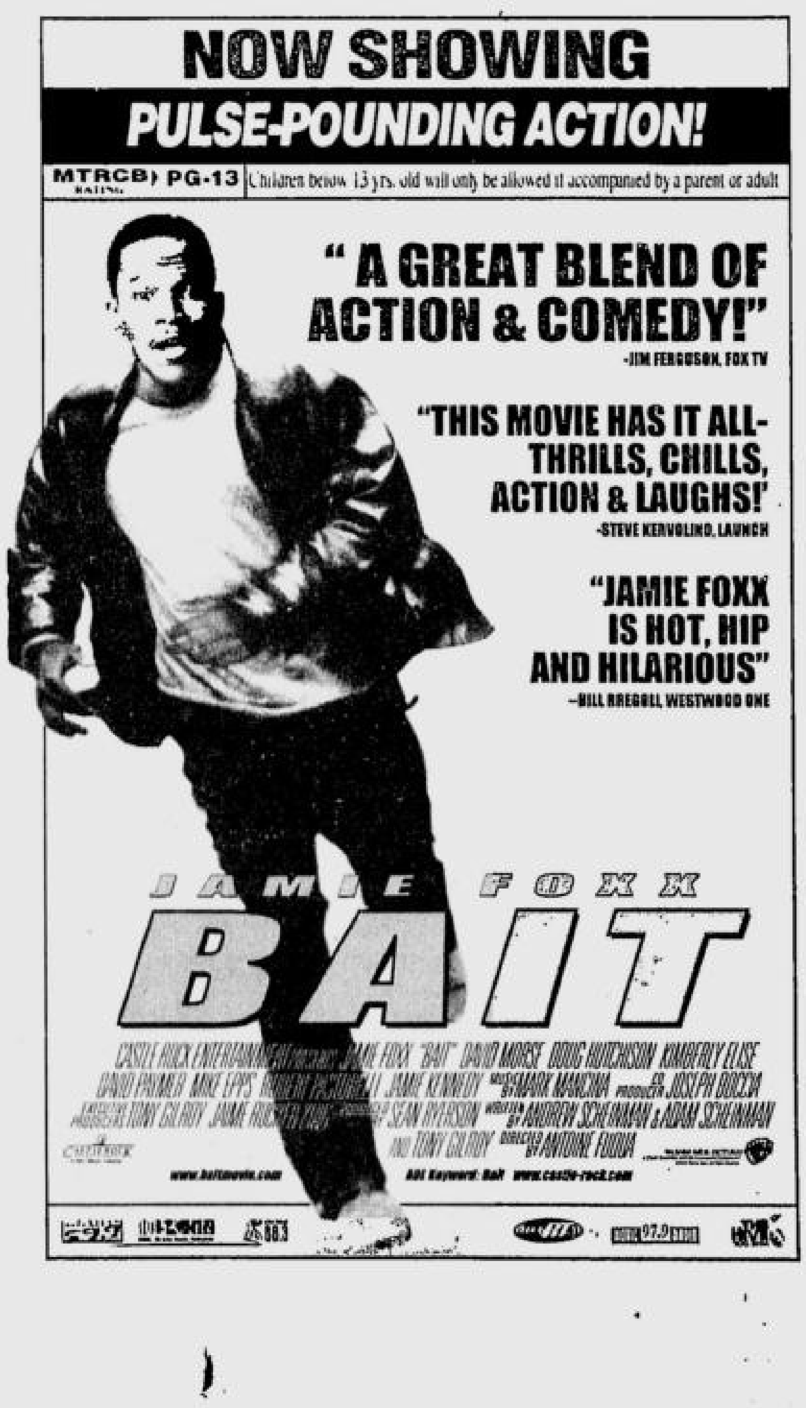

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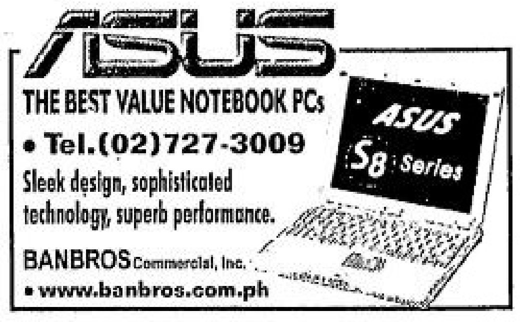
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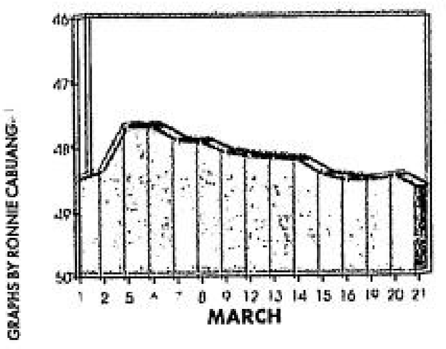


Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 48.633 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 21, 2001

¥ 122.94 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 122.94 as of 5 p.m., March 21, 2001

GOLD:$261.20/261.70 per ounce Hong Kong, March 21, 2001

STOCK MARKET

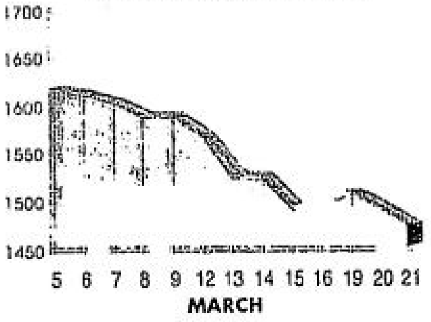
Shares dip

SHARES fell yesterday following the slump in Wall Street where investors were disappointed by the 50 basis point cut in key interest rates by the US Federal Reserve.

The main index dropped 1.34 percent, or 19.98 points, to close at 1,471.56 points.

SHARES/ B2

PSE Composite Index



Bangko Sentral to cut rates

MONETARY officials are to trim key interest rates by 50 basis points after a similar US rate cut on Tuesday, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

The twin announcements pushed the peso and share prices lower, despite Buenaventura's assurance that the market was expecting the move.

"The 50 basis point has been discounted by the market," he said.

Buenaventura told the financial news service AFX-Asia that the bank's monetary board, the policy making arm of the central bank, would meet today to decide when to effect the half percentage-point reduction in overnight rates.

After that "we have to wait for the Fed's next move," he added.

The move would bring down the overnight borrowing rate to 10 percent and the overnight lending rate to 12.25 percent.

The US Federal Reserve approved a half-point cut in short-term interest rates on Tuesday, lowering its benchmark federal funds rate to 5 percent.

When the rate cut takes effect, the overnight rates will have been reduced by a total of 5.0 percentage points since December.

Early yesterday, the peso was lower against the dollar in line with weaker regional currencies and in anticipation of the central bank action, dealers said. The unit opened at 48.54 to the dollar and has hit a low of 48.60 before closing at 48.633.

Share prices likewise eased. "It's in sympathy with Wall Street. When the 1,500 (point level) was broken, that was crucial. I think we are headed for 1,400 points," said Joseph Roxas, president at Eagle Equities Inc.

San Miguel sues Spanish joint venture partner

SAN Miguel Corp. yesterday said it was suing its Spanish joint venture partner, Campofrio Alimentacion S.A., for reneging on an agreement to buy out SMC's stake in the joint venture company San Miguel Campocarne Corp. (SMCC) and refusing to pay the purchase price of $6 million.

SMC said it also asked the court for other items of damages.

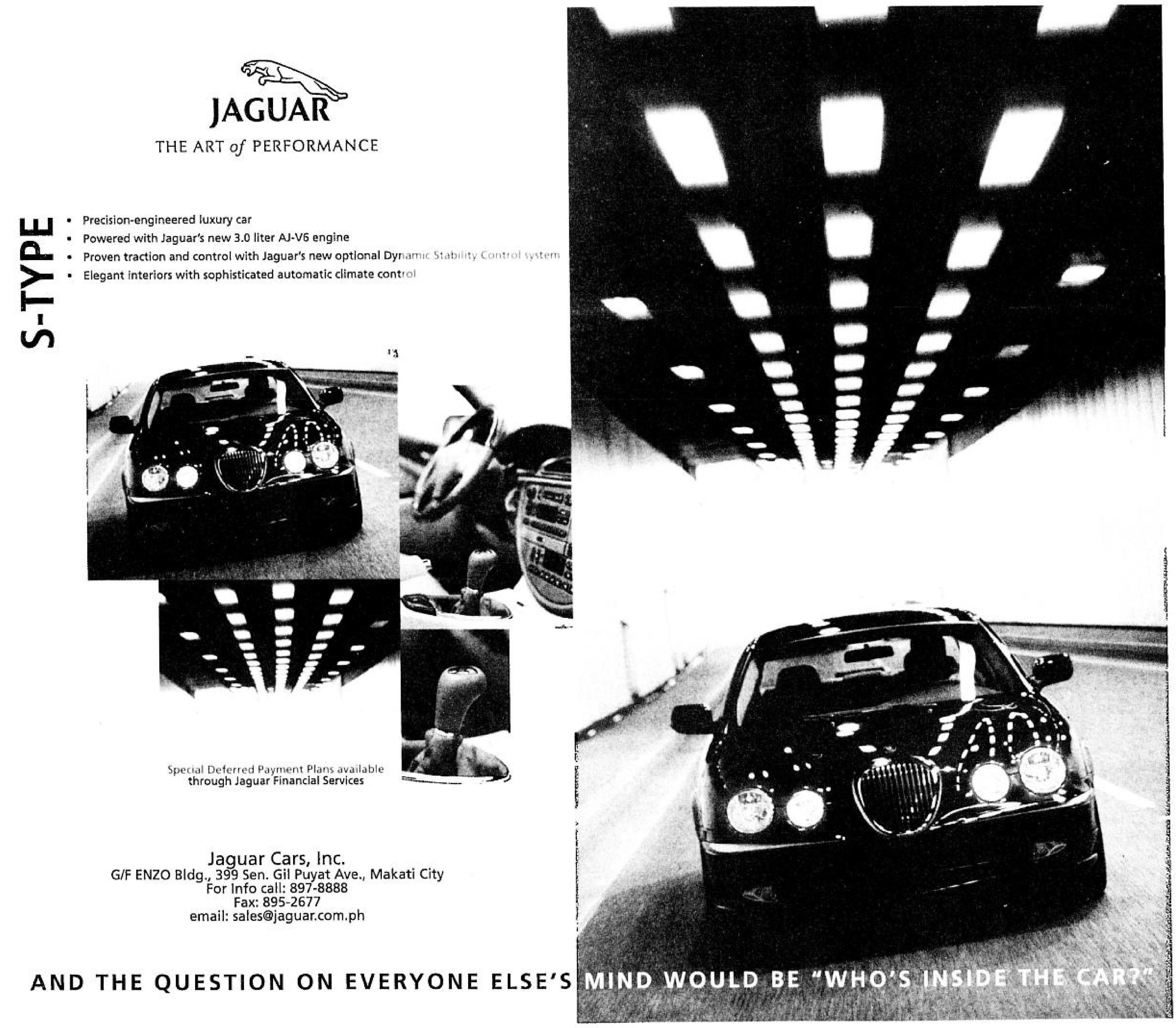
In the complaint filed at the regional trial court of Mandaluyong, SMC asked the court to compel Campofrio to fulfill its contractual commitment to buy out SMC's stake in SMCC at the agreed purchase price of $6 million plus interest and legal fees.

SMC and Campofrio, one of the biggest processed meat manufacturers in Europe, are partners in SMCC, each owning 50 percent of the company. Last September, Campofrio offered to sell its 50-percent stake in SMCC for $6 million to SMC. SMC declined and exercised its option in the joint venture agreement by offering its 50-percent stake to Campofrio for the same amount. Under the joint venture agreement, Campofrio was bound to accept the offer and Campofrio did agree to SMC's offer. However, Campofrio later refused to honor its contractual commitment.

In the complaint, SMC claimed that Campofrio acted in bad faith. SMC said that Campofrio's commitment to SMCC was merely to "test the waters" at minimum exposure, totally ignoring the fiduciary responsibilities of a corporation doing business in the Philippines. "It did not even get a license to do business in the Philippines and refused requests by SMCC for (working capital) advances leaving such responsibility to SMC."

SMC also nominated to the court Jose Daniel Javier, currently SMCC general manager, as receiver, to continue managing operations in light of Campofrio's unjustified refusal to attend board and stockholders' meetings, which Campofrio itself requested and which were scheduled on Jan. 29 and March 19, 2001.

Javier stated that SMCC would continue operations and conduct its business as it used to immediately prior to the suit with existing available resources.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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WHAT'S this I hear? This cute administration of Glorinetta has yet to replace the board members of various companies under the government. It seems the directors are following the example of their former boss. It's a no-brainer—they are not resigning.

In case they did not hear it, the Supreme Court already ruled against their *padrino*, who was none other than the man named Band . . . Wrist Band. I guess this cute administration may deem all those boards also as "effectively resigned."

But they stay on, and what's more, they still enjoy all the perks. Me, I do not envy the management of those corporations. How do you deal with people who are hostile to your present boss, the boss of all bosses, who is none other than Gloriaetta?

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp., one more time with feeling, is a private business. It is not, again, NOT a government company. Still, the Palace is giving all it's got, and you better believe it's a lot, to yank out all the members of the San Miguel board.

So there you have it—this cute administration cannot kick out the boards of those many corporations under the government. It does not move even just a sprained little finger with a dead nail, although it's entirely government business.

Unable to do their business in their own turf, therefore, some people in this cute administration are veering their attention to something else, meddling in a private business that the government should have no business meddling with in the first place.

* * *

OF course, they say it's all in the name of justice. The main man in San Miguel himself, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, admits to being a friend of Wrist Band. To this cute administration, as you know, anything to do with Wrist Band is condemnable.

Never mind if Cojuangco has all the right in the world to run a business in which even the courts say he has all the right in the world to have a hand in running. *Basta*, this cute administration is taking over San Miguel as a government business, period!

They are saying that this cute administration must kick Cojuangco out of San Miguel now that his *padrino* is gone. And why is that? Because, in the first place, he got back into the company with a not so little help from his friend, Wrist Band. And that's it?

* * *

It seems only yesterday, but it was almost three years ago, some characters around Wrist Band actually tried to dislodge Cojuangco from the company, just about the moment he regained control of the business after 12 long years.

At that time, in 1998, everybody in the stock market knew San Miguel was in the hole. For that particular year alone, so-called analysts expected its cash-flow problem would rise to, oh, only about P50 billion. Its huge debts were maturing, for one.

Even in New York in 1996, fund managers were nagging the money men of San Miguel about its finances. The event was a promo of sorts for local stocks organized by Jardine Fleming. Believe me, I was there at the same table as the San Miguel guys.

* * *

TODAY, fund managers abroad again believe in the company. Maybe that's why the government must take control of the business again. So maybe it's true what we say about ourselves: We just can't stand prosperity.

Look, The Coca Cola Co. in the United States want San Miguel itself, meaning, as it is under Cojuangco, as a partner in the Coca Cola company here. San Miguel is reacquiring it. Coca-Cola gave management to San Miguel on one condition.

If the government takes control of San Miguel, according to their side agreement, Coca-Cola will take control of the local company. How do we take that? It seems nobody trusts any government to manage any business. Well, it can't even manage itself.

* * *

IF criminality is rising, the Palace has a simple answer. And it's not because the public thinks that Gloriaetta doesn't seem to be in control, thus putting some people out of control. It's just that the fault belongs entirely to the former crude administration.

But you can bet that, soon, such a tactic is not going to work anymore. Sooner or later, people are going to see through it. They are going to ask what this cute administration is actually doing about our problems. Nobody else to blame!

One such problems is, at least as it was noted by my neighbor, when exactly are we ever going to have a Pagcor gambling "parlor" in our barangay? Didn't you notice they are sprouting out like my summertime pimples? And still, we don't have one.

* * *

FOR how long this cute administration can keep on blaming Wrist Band for our "tattered" economy, plus the return of kidnapping, not to mention the garbage problem, coupled with the terrible traffic in the South Luzon tollway, is still hard to say.

Hey, you may think I am the most gifted asshole in town, but I cannot see the future. What I see today is our police trying to look good before the public by applying a little illegal make-up, such as arrests without warrants.

Reports said a small-town mayor, Javier Zacate, was nabbed right at his home without necessary papers. The raiding police team also searched his home without showing even just a piece of toilet paper.

I wonder what PNP chief Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza is thinking right at this very minute. Oh, sure, there was an effort by the police for media damage control. Like it or not, Mendoza is the one who is getting the black eye.

* * *

IT seems that the raiding team comes from the new "super cops," the so-called Business Complaint Office. This is said to have replaced the discredited PAOCTF. The head of the "super cops" is none other than Director Hermogenes Ebdane.

Now, Ebdane was not exactly Mendoza's choice to head a new group of "super cops," so super they are that they disregard the law because this cute administration needs a make-up, particularly after a couple of celebrated gruesome kidnappings.

In fact, Mendoza told me that he does not believe in forming a specific group of policemen for solving specific crimes. Personally, he wants the PAOCTF abolished. It has become a police force within the police force, he said, and it's not good for the PNP.

Anyway, I never imagined that such violations of human rights, just as humans, not even as citizens of this republic, can still happen under this cute administration. Moral outrage, bear in mind, brought it to power!

Equitable PCI BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of **EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.,** will be held on April 17, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Mezzanine Floor, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue cor. H.V. de la Costa Street, Makati City, Metro Manila, to consider and approve the matters set forth in the following Agenda:

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Certification of Notice and Quorum
III. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on April 18, 2000
IV. Presentation of Annual Report
V. Approval and Ratification of Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, the duly Constituted Committees and Corporate Officers
VI. Election of the Board of Directors
VII. Appointment of External Auditor
VIII. Other Business
IX. Adjournment

The record date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, said meeting is fixed at the close of business hours on March 7, 2001.

Please bring any form of identification in order to facilitate registration.

(SGD) NILO T. DIVINA
Corporate Secretary

Shares dip

(From page B1)

"It's the same thing. Nothing exciting is happening to compel local investors to buy. The market wants to see concrete proof of the promised economic recovery," said Edison Yap, fund manager of Equitable PCI Bank.

"Sure, there's optimism but until we see tax collection hitting its target, investments picking up, and corporate profits expanding, the market will not go up," Yap said. *Reuters*

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of Corro-Coat Inc. has declared a 3-centavo cash dividend payable on May 18 to stockholders as of April 20, 2001.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Diversified Financial Network Inc.** has decided to defer its annual stockholders' meeting, which according to its by-laws should be held on any day in March of each year, to June 1. The venue of the meeting shall be announced at a later date.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Leisure and Resorts World Corp.** has postponed its annual stockholders' meeting, set on April 17 in its by-laws, due to the pending registration of 750 million shares to be issued out of an increase in the authorized capital stock from P500 million to P2.5 billion as approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

* * *

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc. said it has not received any communication from the Go family relating to any supposed plan to inject equity or to sell or keep its shareholdings in the bank.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. and **Ayala Corp.** have reached an agreement, in principle, to conclude negotiations on the sale of **Pure Foods** within the second quarter of the year. However, there has been no definitive agreement that can cover specific matters like valuation.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.** has approved the company's plan to venture into information technology generally covering the field of software, hardware and services in wholesale and/or retail. ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, March 21, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	10,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70	70	69	69.5	332,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51	51	50.5	50.5	28,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	78	78	78	78	2,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	219	220	216	217	44,490
Prudential Bank	500	500	500	500	400
Philippine National Bank	45	46.5	45	46.5	103,200
Phil. Savings Bank	29.5	30	29.5	30	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	67,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	84,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	250	250	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	1200	1200	1200	1200	5,870
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	30,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	865	865	845	845	3,320
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	5,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.5	840,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	665	700	665	700	250
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.048	0.045	0.048	2,500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	70,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	10,000
Piltel	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	470,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	80,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	760	760	750	760	21,360
Ivantage Corp.	0.95	0.96	0.92	0.95	670,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.048	0.05	170,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	45	45	45	45	12,500
Manila Electric Co. B	55	55	54.5	54.5	601,500
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.64	1.66	2,365,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1	1	1	1	190,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	0.96	0.97	0.95	0.95	2,420,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.39	0.31	0.31	8,760,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	940,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
AGP Industrial Corp. A	4	4	4	4	1,000
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	940,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	60,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	30,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	3,000,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	20,600,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	50,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	11.75	873,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	34	34	34	34	17,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.56	1.76	1.56	1.76	132,000
RFM Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	1,154,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	48	48	68,300
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	53	52.5	52.5	52,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	320,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	813,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	994,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	2,300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.9	0.84	0.9	190,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	800,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	9,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.55	34,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10.5	10	10.5	21,200
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	5,483,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.35	3,730,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.8	1	0.8	1	60,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.96	320,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	21.25	21.25	21	21.25	121,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	890,000
Ionics Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	97,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.14	2.1	2.1	493,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	15,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.74	0.74	3,110,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.49	9,040,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	180,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	320,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	420,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	5,000
Music Corp.	2.48	2.5	2.46	2.5	60,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	120,000
SPI Technologies Inc	10.75	10.75	10.25	10.25	432,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.41	0.43	2,700,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.52	0.53	2,580,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	600,000
Manila Jockey Club	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	33,000
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	2,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	490	490	490	490	100
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	32,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	14,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	49,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	2,408,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	200,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	910,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.33	1,450,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.76	1.8	22,685,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.33	310,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.06	0.06	3,200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	1,940,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.115	0.115	0.1	0.1	5,670,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	16,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	300,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	170,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	23,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	13,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.014	25,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	1,150,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22	6,720,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.026	0.016	0.026	1,100,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	20,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	15,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	5,500,000
South China Resources Inc	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	30,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	713,480	50,996,615.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	310,706,010	154,858,340.00
PRO	38,933,000	68,352,750.00
Mining	85,340,000	2,419,000.00
OIL	56,830,000	352,650.00
GRAND TOTALS :	492,522,490	276,979,355.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	596.44	DOWN 6.20
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,018.17	DOWN 20.93
PRO	540.17	DOWN 8.75
Mining	1,214.26	UP 0.61
OIL	1.54	DOWN 0.09
All Shares Index	716.77	DOWN 10.93
Composite	1,471.56	DOWN 19.98

NO. OF ADVANCES: 14; NO. OF DECLINES: 68; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 118; NO. OF TRADES: 2,373

CURRENCIES

Mar. 21, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.099263	1.000000	48.4960
Japan	Yen	0.008993	0.008181	0.3967
United Kingdom	Pound	1.578542	1.436000	69.6403
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140953	0.128225	6.2184
Switzerland	Franc	0.651145	0.592347	28.7265
Canada	Dollar	0.702405	0.638978	30.9879
Singapore	Dollar	0.619617	0.563666	27.3355
Australia	Dollar	0.548316	0.498803	24.1900
Bahrain	Dinar	2.915973	2.652661	128.6434
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.293113	0.266645	12.9312
Brunei	Dollar	0.617911	0.562114	27.2603
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000096	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.024961	0.022707	1.1012
UAE	Dirham	0.299290	0.272264	13.2037
Korea	Won	0.000849	0.000772	0.0374
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.909700	44.1168
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.465122	22.5566
France	Franc	0.152450	0.138683	6.7256
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.412804	20.0193
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.066110	3.2061
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022551	1.0936
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000470	0.0228
Finland	Markka	0.168276	0.153081	7.4238
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004538	0.2201
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005467	0.2651
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022551	1.0936
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.155081	56.0168

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RP still in Japan's top 10 preferred investment sites

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

AN ECONOMIST of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation said he expected the Philippines' ranking in Japan's top 10 preferred investment destinations to improve this year after falling to the bottom last year.

In JBIC's annual survey of Japan's top 10 destinations of direct investments for 2000, which was released yesterday by JBIC senior economist Shinji Kaburagi, the Philippines' rank dropped two notches from 8th place in 1999 to 10th.

This was attributed to the political uncertainties that prevailed last year particularly at the height of the "Juetengate" scandal that involved former President Estrada.

Kaburagi, who is also JBIC's director for direct investment research, said the outlook for the Philippines would likely improve this year with the Macapagal administration's aggressive campaign to attract the attention of Japanese investors. He said Japanese overseas investors, who were concerned over the weakening Japanese economy, last year "took a flight to quality."

"Japanese companies are becoming more conscious of the profit picture but they remain active in investing overseas. If the Philippines would provide a good opportunity, maybe more Japanese companies will be attracted," Kaburagi said in a press briefing yesterday.

However, he said the Philippines and other members of the Asean 4 (Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia) would have to compete with several other countries for a bigger share of Japan's foreign direct investments by implementing more transparent and market-oriented policies.

China, United States and Thailand remained the top three favorite destinations of Japanese investors as shown in the 2000 survey. They were followed by Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, India, Vietnam, Korea and the Philippines.

A significant trend in the survey was the inclusion of more advanced Asian economies like Taiwan and Korea in the top 10 list. The two were not in the previous lists but they dislodged United Kingdom and Brazil last year.

Kaburagi said the information technology (IT) factor brought more attention to these countries, especially Taiwan. He said there was a surge in IT investments in Taiwan on PC and hardware manufacturing.

He said that countries like the Philippines still enjoyed keen interest from Japanese investors as far as the software development side of the global IT business was concerned.

The biggest factors working favorably for the Philippines, as cited by the Japanese companies that have chosen the country as a promising investment site last year, were: inexpensive labor force, potential for future market growth, its capacity as an alternative export base, a good supply base for final assembly manufacturers, excellent human resources and favorable investment policies and deregulation policies.

DOF reviews policy on cigarette tax

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is tinkering anew with the government's policy on cigarette taxes in a bid to boost tax collections and to keep the budget deficit within manageable levels.

A source said Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo was seriously considering to shift the tax system on cigarettes from excise or specific tax to ad valorem to shore up revenues.

The proposed shift was reportedly instigated by Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Banez after revenue collection from cigarette sales have been falling amid rising prices of cigarettes.

Since the excise tax imposes a fixed value per volume sold by cigarette makers, the government is getting much lesser in percentage terms from cigarette sales now than what it was collecting under the ad valorem system (where taxes were based on the price).

Excise taxes on cigarettes and alcohol products are a key source of government money as they account for P50 billion to P60 billion of total BIR collections every year.

But the source said the proposed shift was a futile exercise since cigarette companies would just find a loophole to keep them from paying more taxes. The source said cigarette firms would just lower their prices if an ad valorem system is adopted while cigarette firms would continue to underreport their volume sales if the excise tax system is retained. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

‘GIANT ROLLING COFFINS’

Mysterious accidents spell technological blunder

(First of three parts)

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

ONE early morning in 1995, a cruising dump truck's air compressor burst, causing it to lose brakes. The truck rammed into a house where a family of five slept. The entire family died.

A few years ago in a Cagayan de Oro town, the entire steering box of another truck collapsed. The truck careened out of control.

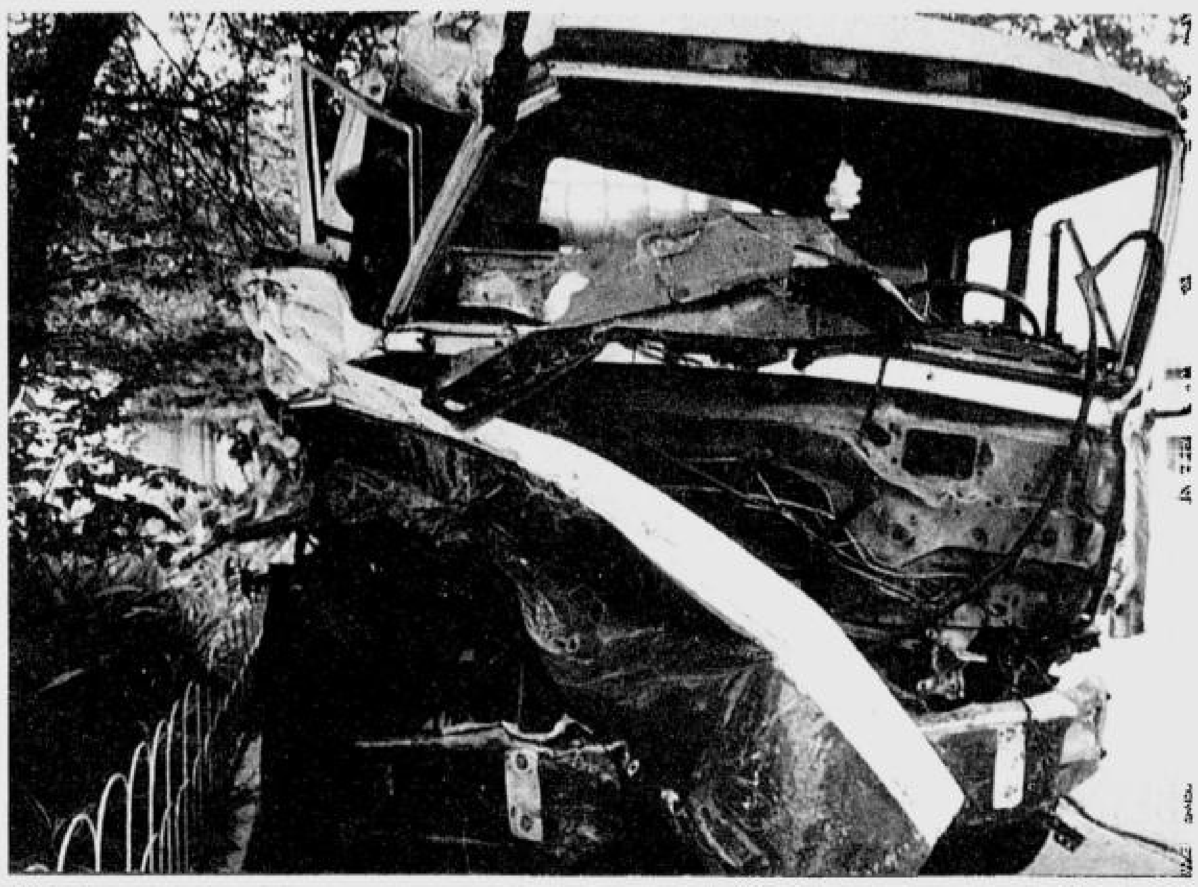
A fuse cargo truck traversing the crowded CAA Compound in Las Piñas City on Dec. 24, 1999, hit a Mitsubishi L-300 moving the opposite direction. The truck then hit a Nissan Urvan Microbus, which killed Fe Aguilar who was on her way to a midnight Mass.

All of a sudden, the brakes don't work. The air compressor bursts. A 10-ton truck is suddenly out of control.

These are just a few of the many mystery crashes cited by a Filipino automotive technologist who keeps track of mishaps involving trucks. Beyond the usual causes of most truck accidents such as tired, sleepy and overextended drivers or in extreme cases where drugs or liquor are involved, the automotive technologist—who refused to be named until his investigation is completed—raised the possibility of a common underlying cause involving a technological blunder.

Trucks that were originally created to be right-hand drive (RHD) were haphazardly converted to left-hand drive.

A total of 230,000 trucks renewed its registration last year, and 17,909 more new trucks entered the country's streets. Of the new trucks, 1,965—11 percent—came from recognized truck manufacturers and importers. The rest—15,944 of them—are either locally assembled ("chop-chop" imported surplus parts locally assembled), or imported by local government units as CBUs (completely built up). How many of these nearly 16,000 units are repositioned (converted to left-hand drive) without conforming to the Philippine National Standard of the Department of Trade and Industry, no one knows, says the technologist.



KILLER truck in Las Piñas was converted. Note the wiper placed in a right-hand drive position.

If the technologist's accident tracking information is the basis, then the majority of these conversions of trucks and buses apparently do not conform to standard engineering practices. Though no other external source has backed up his claim, his initial investigation and his record of cases showed how a number of truck importers apparently violated Republic Act 4136 (phasing out in-use RHD vehicles). RA 4136 ordered, among others, that RHD vehicles operating in the country must be converted to left-hand drive. More important, it also stated that the conversion must conform to technical specifications issued by the DTI.

SPECIAL REPORT

According to the technologist, it wouldn't only be the brakes that would cause problems in a defective conversion process. Major weak points would also include the headlights, wipers, welding of pipes and the draglink.

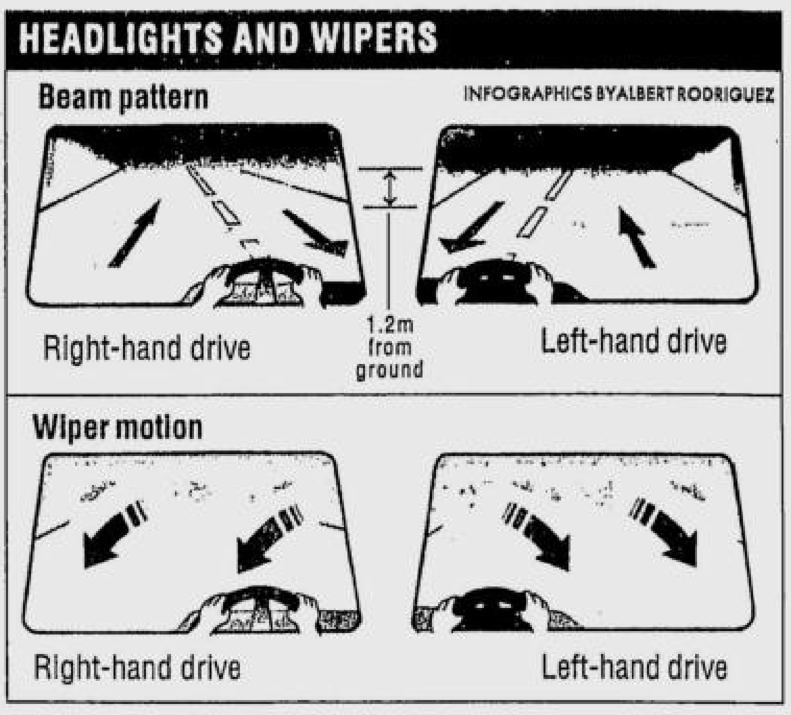
Headlights

An intense beam of light blinding an oncoming driver can cause disorientation.

Whenever RHD trucks must be converted, the headlights also need to be replaced because the standard pattern slope created by the beam—called "Z" lights—also have to be repositioned.

The beam pattern of a left-hand drive vehicle's light is designed to slope upward at the right beam, at the right side of the road, in order to illuminate all road signs and pedestrians, including stalled vehicles on the shoulder. The left beam is designed to slope down in order to prevent oncoming motorists from being blinded by a high beam. In countries that use right-hand driving, the opposite is followed—the beam slopes upward on the left while the right slopes down on the right. A lot of repositioned trucks in the country still retain the RHD beam pattern that has prevented many truck drivers from seeing parked vehicles on their right, while at the same time the high left beam has blinded drivers on the opposite direction. It would be a perfect recipe for a head-on collision.

HEADLIGHTS AND WIPERS



TOPMOST diagram shows the RHD and LHD beam pattern slope that illuminates all road signs and pedestrians and prevents oncoming motorists from being blinded. (Above) Wipers are designed to increase the field of vision and minimize the "blind spot."

Wipers

Another telltale sign of a haphazard repositioning is when wipers are not adjusted for left-hand drive. The result is a decrease in the driver's field of vision during heavy rains. There are occasions when, while a truck is approaching an intersection, a person or vehicle coming from the left and traveling perpendicularly to his vehicle's line of travel, is covered by the "blind spot zone." In addition, both motions are so related and moving toward the same intersecting point that the driver—with the incorrectly positioned wiper—may not see the person or the vehicle because his vision is blocked by the blind spot.

For countries using left-hand driving, automotive experts have positioned wipers where the sweep of the arm is always toward the driver in order to increase the field of vision during rainy conditions—thus minimizing the "blind spot."

These are some physical details a motorist can readily notice. This is, however, just the tip of the iceberg. For haphazardly converted trucks, tragedy is waiting under the hood.

(Next issue: When welded pipes and draglink fail at 80 kph)

F1 drivers court death by the second

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

HONDA gave me my baptism of fire in Formula racing. For this, I'll be eternally grateful to my *kabaleyan*, Mr. Honda Man himself, Arnel Doria. Mr. Honda Man because aside from being very fluent in speaking the Pangasinense dialect that became the national language during FVR's presidency from 1992 to 1998, Arnel speaks fluent Japanese as well. That's one area I couldn't beat him as the only Japanese words I know are *arigato* (thank you) and *sayonara* (goodbye).

The first time I watched the Formula race in action live, I immediately fell in love with it. I said then to myself, "Wow! This is it. I used to only see the speed demon on cars race like hell on TV. Now they're right before my eyes, flying to almost an average of 200 kph."

As the cliché goes, "I was never the same again after that first encounter with a Formula car."

That was in 1997. The race track where I was then was the Michigan International Speedway in Detroit. The top driver then in the Michigan race was Alex Zanardi.

* * *

Two years later, who would I meet but Zanardi again. This time, he would be one of Honda's drivers in the 1999 Formula One, the real thing in motor sports.

Caltex this time made my trip possible to the World Championship in Formula One in 1999. Brian Drummond, that very amiable Caltex "lube" executive from South Africa, was my buddy at the Sepang International Circuit in Kuala Lumpur when the world's best Formula One circuit was inaugurated that year.

Remember those days, Brian, particularly that one occasion when we dined with royalty (a teenage granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth of England) at a revolving restaurant in the sky (was it at the KL Tower or Petronas?) one night on the eve of the Formula One race? We were almost 50 floors up and, as we feasted on prawns and lobster washed down by port wine, we fed our eyes with the glittering sight of charming Kuala Lumpur in the night.

When somebody suggested (was it me, Brian?) that we had our picture taken together with the princess, you politely reminded, "That's not possible." That was one way of saying, "There isn't any fans day for royalty."

I next concentrated on sipping my wine, occasionally throwing glances at the tall, properly plump and well-endowed princess in white long sleeves tucked under a pair of tight blue jeans. Who would think princesses only wear diamond-studded gowns and never slacks and jeans and sneakers?

Brian would smile each time he caught me glancing at the princess, a Formula One enthusiast, who was really so near yet so far away from me that evening.

* * *

This year, I was back in Kuala Lumpur for the Formula One. Vernon Sarne was Caltex's guest this time while I got reunited with Honda and Arnel Doria, who was with Tin Tin Reyes. Tin Tin as usual did a marvelous job at ensuring that our trip was a most memorable one—even as she failed to bring Vernon to me live at the Main Grandstand of the Sepang Circuit on Race Day.

"The ticket I reserved for him was only for one way use," said Tin Tin, apologizing really sincerely for what was not a snafu at all. "Once you used it entering the Ciruit, it couldn't be used again as it is only for a single entry for the day."

Stamp pads aren't in vogue in Kuala Lumpur anymore. The Sepang Circuit, with a seating capacity of 110,000 (80,000 in the general admission), is the most electronically advanced motor racetrack in the world.

It is a world wonder by itself, with cars speeding to a scorching 350 kph in the home straight and earplugs are a must when you are at the Grandstand.

Sensor machines validate tickets at each of the eight entrance gates so that fakes are detected immediately.

My Grandstand ticket, which had me seated just about 15 meters away from the center of the Circuit's home straight, cost P17,000—good for three days. Too expensive?

Think again, fellas.

In 1999, my ticket at the air-conditioned lounge of Caltex overlooking the Circuit's home straight was $1,500 (approximately P75,000) for three days at $500 a day.

The Formula One, in case you still don't know, is the most expensive spectator sport in the world, both ticket-wise and souvenir-wise. A cap alone that bears world champion Michael Schumacher's signature costs P2,000.

Since the Formula One is the most dangerous sport ever, drivers court death by the second.

The Formula One, whose champion usually winds up as the richest of all athletes in terms of annual earnings, is the world's No. 3 spectator sport. No. 1 is the quadrennial Olympic Games and No. 2 is the World Cup of soccer, also held once in four years.

When Schumacher won last year, he ended up tops with $59 million, $3 million more than Tiger Woods' $56 million.

Schumacher repeated at Kuala Lumpur's Sepang Circuit last Sunday via a spectacular drive in the rain that saw him rally from 11th to win racing away. The German led a rare 1-2 Ferrari finish in duplicating his other come-from-behind victory in Melbourne two weeks ago, with teammate Rubens Barrichello of Brazil finishing second. David Coulthard, runnerup in Melbourne, was third in a McLaren Mercedes-Benz.

Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the German on board Jordan Honda whom I had predicted would improve on his fifth-place finish in Melbourne, finished fourth in Sepang. With Frentzen finishing ahead of fellow Honda drivers Jarno Trulli (8th), Jacques Villeneuve (20th) and Oliver Panis (21st), I won some bets from Arnel and Tin Tin and from 14 Honda dealers coming from across the archipelago. However, I had to share my winnings with Jun Te of Davao and Herman Chong from Dagupan City as both also correctly predicted Frentzen's admirable showing after suffering a misfire on the first parade lap of the 55-lap duel.

In finishing fourth in a Jordan Honda, Frentzen clocked an average 169.391kph to Schumacher's 170.613 kph in the 55-lap spin on the 5.543-km circuit.

Frentzen covered the 308.865-km race in one hour, 48.21.344, or .46.543 "slower" than Schumacher's winning time of 1:47.34.801.

More on this next week, especially so that the third leg of the 17-leg Formula One season is slated for April 1 in Interlagos, Sao Paolo, Brazil.

No, I'm not flying to Brazil. But if Kuya Dick Ferrer, if not Kenji Otaka of HCPI, would want me to, why not?

Sayonara, Hiroshi Mikajiri-san and *arigato*.

* * *

***QUOTE ME:* The wives and even girlfriends of Formula One drivers are usually off limits from their men five days before race day.**

Volvo S60: The designer's tale

THE TASK of designing a car must be one of the most fun bits of automotive development work. Creative tornadoes of wild ideas and emotions are gradually blended into a design that must face reality and meet the prerequisites of the concept.

For the Volvo S60, the inspiration came from the aforesaid—or from the coupé. The new sedan features the roofline of a coupé with two extra doors blended into its new design to reflect motion and emotion.

Here's the tale of how it was done:

The Volvo S60 project started in 1997 and the original brief described a sporty car with a strong visual performance that would appeal in particular to young people. A car to be seen in, a car that made a statement.

Design director Peter Horbury—with several Volvo design successes to his credit by now—had a very clear idea of what was expected from his team of experts: "Design a car that will appeal to younger people, those that normally wouldn't consider a Volvo. Young people who want to be perceived as having good taste and intelligence and, not least, as leading an active life and who have a social conscience. In short: design a Volvo sedan that is inspired by a sports car, and drives like one."

The design suggestion that was ultimately chosen of the four original suggestions, was by California-based designer Geza Loczi, of the Volvo Monitoring and Concept Center.

Joining the tail lamp on each side is also the line that emerges gradually on either side of the roof and is transformed into a sharp crease on its way down to the high rear end. The large tail lamps also mark the Volvo sedan family identity. The boot is more dome-shaped compared with other Volvo sedans and helps round off the body in a sporty and powerful way.

"The nose of the S60 features a third variant of the soft nose theme introduced on the S80 and carried on to the V70," says Loczi. "The dark 'egg crate' grille adds some drama and sportiness in a period of chrome, as do the rounded shapes both horizontally and vertically in the front. The car looks aggressive yet friendly, thanks to the rounded shapes and its compactness suggestive of large reserves of power packed into a 'small volume for one single purpose—sheer driving pleasure."

Deceives the eye

When seen from the side for the first time, the design deceives the eye. No car with such a roof can possibly accommodate full-grown rear seat passengers in comfort. Nothing, however, could be more wrong. The rear seat is much more spacious and the headroom much more generous than the appearances suggest. This is not achieved by sitting the passengers on the floor on a thin cushion, instead the rear seat is designed to accommodate full-grown passengers in a safe and comfortable way. It is the result of intelligent design.

VOLVO S60

The compartment with its large glass area is light and airy to avoid any claustrophobic feelings; it combines the lines of a coupé with the ease of entry and the roominess of a sedan.

Sporty exterior, interior

Driving a car is largely, if not fully, a matter of being in control. Control is the very keyword for safe and enjoyable driving. This can be made difficult or easy depending on how you position the driver in the car. In the Volvo S60, the driver is positioned to obtain a commanding overview through the large windscreen, and with all gauges and controls conveniently grouped in the direct line of vision. It is an active driver's environment.

Freedom within the family

The large Volvo platform allows for many variations in the conceptual and visual family tradition. When designing the new V70, the design mission was to combine the front of a sports car with the back of a van for both practical and esthetic reasons.

In the case of the S60, the focus was instead on matching the sporty front with a rear profile that was equally sporty. And not forgetting the needs of the occupants in between.

Because, after all, it is the entity as a whole that counts.

Strong family identity

The low sloping roof line that says "coupé" is certainly what characterizes the profile of the new S60 but there are many more design elements that add to those good looks.

Short overhangs, both front and rear, contribute to a powerful stance and convey an impression of eagerness to go. The Volvo family identity is marked by a strong waistline and pronounced "haunches" or catwalks running along the entire length of the car from the A-pillar to the taillamps.

It was the head of Interior Design, Jose Diaz de la Vega, who took on the job of carrying over the exciting exterior with to the interior.

Sporty details

This sportiness is emphasized by the graphite binnacle housing the instruments, with its clearly marked "shoulders," by the door panels and the center console which share the same positive line, and by the design of the deeply sculpted seats.

Everywhere in the interior, the eye sees flat surfaces that are joined together at different angles to form shapes that give a muscular impression, for instance the instrument cover. This creates a stronger active feeling than round and oblong shapes.

For the first time since the Volvo 1800 ES sports coupé of the early '70s, there is a Volvo with a three-spoke steering wheel, in fact the smallest on the market with a 60-liter airbag.

Just as sporty and inviting is the gear lever—the Spaceball—with its alloy finish, and together with the steering wheel, is an appealing combination to touch and use.

Seat support

Volvo seats have won great acclaim for their design and function over the years. Besides giving excellent ergonomic bodily support and protection through the WHIPS system and side airbags, the seats have been specially developed with a sporty feeling in mind. They provide generous lateral support.

This is also evident in the rear seat, where the contoured backseat also gives excellent lateral support to the rear seat passengers. Both front and rear seats have been specially designed to match each other in terms of shape and contour.

There is a choice of two interiors, Dynamic and Comfort. The Dynamic version is even more heavily sculpted in order to make the car more of a 2+2 seater, whereas the Comfort version provides more room for the third passenger in the rear seat.

Enjoyable yet difficult

"Designing a new car is perhaps the most enjoyable part of all automotive work, yet may also be the most difficult because it is so extrovert," says chief designer Peter Horbury. All people have strong opinions about the looks of a car, especially how it should not look. There are as many opinions as there are customers.

"With the Volvo S60, we believe that we have succeeded in combining the classic elements of Volvo design with a strong sporty influence in a very efficient package with plenty of appeal. Especially when painted in the new radiant maya yellow color. And on top of all that, it is safe, roomy and practical too," concludes Horbury.

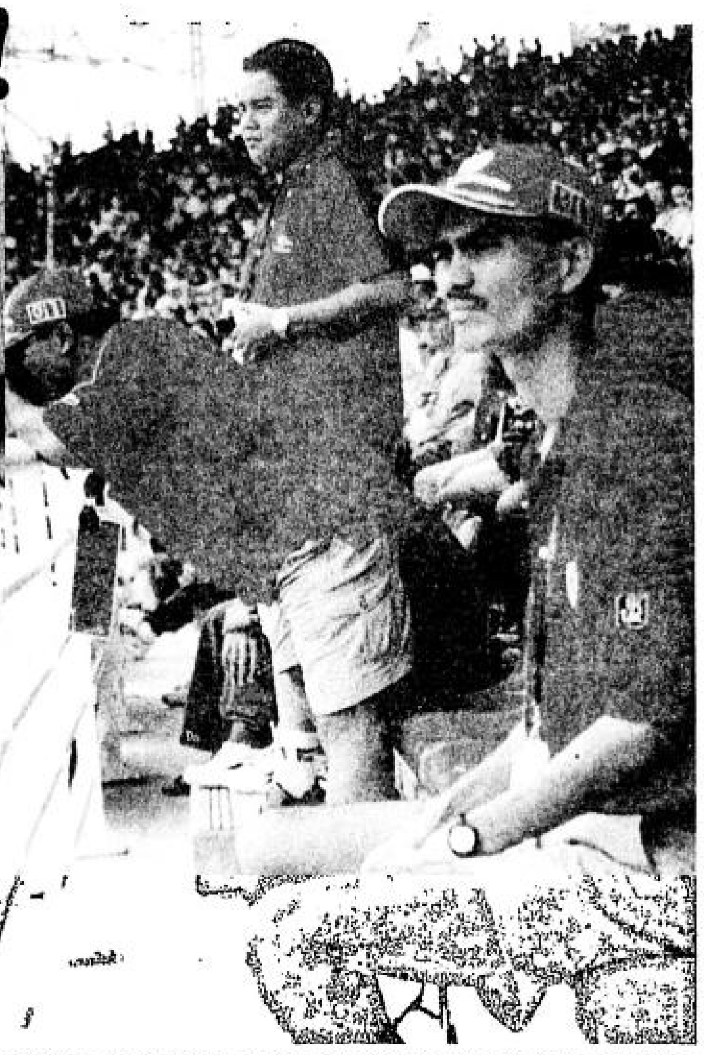
2001 MALAYSIAN GRAND PRIX

Sepang-tacular!

**TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY VERNON B. SARNE**

THE CLOSEST F1 circuit to home.

IT'S easy to see why BAR-Honda merchandise sold like hotcakes.


EVEN the Malaysians rooted for Ferrari instead of the Petronas team.

CALTEX'S Leonardo "Jun" Masilang and a Sauber Petronas car.

WHEN we got Caltex Phils.' invitation to the 2001 Malaysian Grand Prix as early as January, we had sleepless nights thinking about the prospect of bumping into the likes of Michael Schumacher and Adrian Newey, both modern-day icons of Formula One racing. Of course, there was the very real possibility of shaking hands with Jaguar driver Eddie Irvine, team boss Bobby Rahal, and racing director Niki Lauda. Caltex—or its mother company, Texaco, to be exact—has sponsorship ties with the Jaguar team. It is to Jaguar what Shell is to Ferrari and Mobil is to McLaren.

Last weekend, we flew to Kuala Lumpur in time for the qualifying session on Saturday and the actual race on Sunday. We caught Malaysia on a hot day. To be specific, 36 degrees Celsius during daytime and a 98-percent humidity. In the truest sense of the word, it was F1 fever indeed.

We traveled with Caltex national manager for lubricants sales and marketing Leonardo "Jun" Masilang and two very fortunate Caltex customers, Marty Mercado and Rodrigo Rivera, Jr.

Two days before the race, there was some serious debate over its live telecast in Malaysia. Suffering from poor ticket sales, the organizers lobbied for the scrapping of a live broadcast to encourage people to watch the race in the Sepang International Circuit, the newest and most technologically advanced racetrack in all of Formula One. The lukewarm reception of this year's race was blamed largely on the grand prix's calendar shift from the last race to the second race of the season. With the organizers barely recovering from last October's race for the final leg of the 2000 season, here came another. That meant staging two F1 races in a span of five months.

Formula One—we discovered when we arrived at the circuit hours before qualifying—is one big circus. It is a traveling show. A very grand and expensive show. Needless to say, it is also one big business. Immediately greeting fans upon entry to the circuit's vicinity are huge makeshift stores selling official F1 merchandise. In a pompous display of marketing strategy, Ferrari (and Michael Schumacher), McLaren-Mercedes, BMW Williams, BAR-Honda, and Arrows all have their own imposing store locations.

We must say F1 teams are very good entrepreneurs. Capitalizing on the popularity of the sport and preying on the zealousness of the fans, they stamp their team logos and embroider the names of their drivers on just about anything to make money. And the items are very expensive. A sports cap, for instance, costs RM120, or about P1,500. A shirt sells for about the same price, while a heavily embroidered works shirt (like the ones worn by team mechanics) could go as much as P5,400. We settled for a Ferrari shirt, a BAR-Honda cap, and 1:24 Hot Wheels die-cast scale models of the Ferrari F1-2000, McLaren MP4-15, Jaguar R1, Jordan EJ10, and Williams FW22.

Fans are just as wild in person as they are on TV. In Sepang, they painted their faces; they brought huge flags; they wore their team colors from head to foot; they took off their shirts; they slept on the grass; they splurged on F1 items; they screamed their lungs out. It was a party. In the stands, they flocked together according to loyalties, so you'd see orderly strips of yellow, green, silver and blue. But generally, the stands became a sea of red once the seats got filled. Team Ferrari was no doubt the overwhelming favorite. Even the Malaysians, who should have been cheering for Sauber Petronas being their home team, went out of their heads at the sight of the two scarlet cars following each other around the track.

Side shows abounded as well. The most notable of which were the five F-18 fighter jets darting above the circuit and doing all sorts of maneuvers even Schumacher couldn't do with his Ferrari.

Our tickets cost RM750 each. That's P9,000 for a three-day pass that allowed us to watch the practice sessions, the qualifying, and the race. Our seats were located in the K1 Grandstand, near the first corner of the track right after the long pit straight. It would have been nice to sit in front of the paddocks, but we thought the first corner wasn't bad at all. That's usually where cars crash after the start. Unfortunately, no pileup happened before us. The worst incident that happened on that turn was Ralf Schumacher's spin in the opening laps.

We should have been cheering for Jaguar. But Michael Schumacher's performance in the wet was so brilliant and overwhelming, it was difficult not to rejoice with the tifosi. As for the Jaguars, Eddie Jrvine retired while Luciano Burti finished 10th and without a point.

Blame it on reliability problems, not on the oil.

A blessing and brickbats

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

E-MAIL is a wonderful thing: it brings blessings, brickbats and ideas from readers here and abroad. For example, an e-mail from Chupsie Medina of Shell praising the Land Transportation Office of Makati City proves that red tape can be eliminated if bureaucrats are determined to do so: "I was at the Makati LTO recently (renewing my car registration) and was pleasantly surprised to witness the satisfaction of several people who were renewing their driving licenses. In five to 10 minutes, they walked away with a big smile and their renewed license, photo, signature and all in the plastic laminated card. In 1999 when I renewed my license, I was given a temporary license and had to return twice to get my card. With this new development, I look forward to renewing my license next year."

This columnist would like to bless the Makati LTO, too, for when I had my driver's license renewed last October, it was done in a jiffy. The LTO folks in Makati have fast-tracked the driver's license renewal system even though the LTO isn't fully computerized yet. Signs posted on the windows of the Makati LTO office guide the motorist/car owner where to go next and the employees answer questions courteously. The LTO's lunch and coffee break hours are also posted for the information and guidance of the public. If only the bureaucrats in other government agencies would adopt the efficient, no-nonsense work flow system of the Makati LTO!

After that blessing comes a brickbat from another reader, Laurence Mendoza (no relation), hurled in the direction of the traffic authorities of Quezon City. Reader Mendoza complains about the bottleneck at the North Luzon Expressway toll plaza/Balintawak cloverleaf/Edsa delaying motorists entering Manila from the north. "Did you notice," he asks, "that the six-lane (or is it eight?) southbound highway becomes a dirty, smelly, one-lane street causing one of the worst recurring traffic jams in the city whose effects can be felt as far north as Bulacan?"

Laurence Mendoza claims that "it all begins with a 'transformation' which occurs at night. This seemingly harmless market would suddenly spill out its insides onto the highway, trapping unsuspecting motorists and leaving only one lane open—*nahiya pa*. A lone traffic policemen standing in front of this market (and doing his job) can prevent this periodic mutation from happening. Just imagine what higher authorities could do to end all this... During my last encounter with this mutant (Dec. 29) it took us 10 grueling hours to get from Baguio to Marikina."

This being election campaign season, the local pols running against the incumbent Quezon City administration's candidates can use the Balintawak market's "periodic mutation" and resulting traffic gridlock as a campaign issue. Or perhaps Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Ben Abalos, having failed to solve the garbage problem, can tackle the Balintawak mutant with a wee bit more success.

An e-mail from Elden Severino of Lucent Technologies, Chippenham, Wiltshire, UK, brickbats our driving habits, traffic and roads. Reader Severino, who must have visited Manila recently, says that traffic congestion in London, Sao Paolo or Frankfurt is worse than Metro Manila's but traffic manages to continue flowing in those other cities "because of efficient driving system, attitude and strict cohesion to regulations." But in the Philippines, Mr. Severino observes that, among other things drivers overtake on the right side although it is risky to do so; heavy trucks, instead of maintaining speeds of 40 to 60 kph in the slow lane, compete with smaller and faster vehicles in the fast lane; in the countryside, particularly Cagayan Valley, tractors travel at night without any reflectorized material indicating their presence on the road; and often, road work is done without any guide lights at night or a safety warning device posted at least 500 meters from the approach to the project and without any alternative road or detour provided in good condition. Mr. Severino cites as an example an accident that befell his aunt at the Marcos Highway because of falling debris from the viaduct project.

Many of us could add to Mr. Severino's litany of motoring woes and conclude that driving in the Philippines is a nasty business. But if a government agency like the Makati LTO can improve and make progress, perhaps there's hope for us yet.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Car service: If it ain't broke, we'll break it.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla @pacific.net.ph

Traveling tips for Holy Week

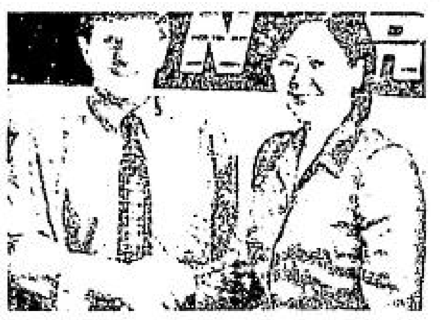
HOLY Week has officially started, and every Filipino seems intent on planning a pilgrimage or out-of-town trip to fulfill his religious duties. Devoted Christians usually disregard traffic and other inconveniences just to reach their destination and practice the Visita Iglesia, Via Cruci and other Lenten traditions.

Out-of-town trips may be the best option for families, friends and traveling groups, to while away time during this Lenten season. Long drives are guaranteed to transport these travelers to their much-desired destination.

Here are a few tips from Prestone Brake Fluid for traveling motorists who will be driving out this Holy Week:

- Plan your trip days, weeks, even months in advance. Make all necessary arrangements with the destination of your choice to guarantee no hassles on your arrival.
- Make sure that your car or vehicle is in top condition. Check the fuel gauge, battery, tires, air-conditioning, brake system, exhaust system, lubrication and oil change, engine, windshield wipers, and all other essential parts for damage, cracks, wear, tear and other troubles.
- For long drives, pack basic necessities, such as maps, snacks, water and extra clothes. For your car, make sure your driver's tool kit is well-equipped with jumper cables, insulated pliers, two insulated screw drivers, adjustable wrench and a flashlight.
- It is also highly advisable to bring an emergency kit, to be stored in the trunk, containing a heavy duty electric lantern with flasher, a box of flares, a first-aid kit and manual, and a dry chemical fire extinguisher. Another important necessity to add to the kit is a quality brake fluid, Prestone Brake Fluid, in case of foul-ups in your brake system.
- It would be better to have a full tank before the long drive. Make sure your route will pass by convenience stores, populated areas and gasoline stations. Refill the fuel tank before dark.
- Don't consume alcohol, sedatives and tranquilizers before driving to avoid accidents.
- Before you start the car, check the rear view mirrors and lock the doors. Make your passengers wear their seatbelts. Pump the brake pedal, and hold it a few seconds to confirm pedal pressure.
- On the highway, watch out for possible hazards in the oncoming traffic and in your own lane, and without disturbing traffic flow, try to have space to maneuver in case trouble develops.
- Traveling to a higher altitude can sometimes cause high altitude sickness or mountain sickness. Because of the change in oxygen intake you might experience dizziness, shortness of breath, headache and nausea. Bring along or take in a motion sickness medication before the trip.
- In case it rains, train yourself beforehand to reduce speed instinctively. At the beginning of a shower, rain water mixes with oil on the road to form a slippery surface. Cut your speed when it gets dark. A line brake fluid may do the job perfectly for these instances.
- Rotate drivers to prevent drowsiness. If there's only one driver in the vehicle, the passengers should engage him/her in a conversation, or play upbeat music on the radio.
- Take a break at least every two hours to stretch. This will aid in, preventing fatigue and loss of concentration.
- When you leave the car, close all windows tightly, leave no valuables or packages that will tempt robbers, lock the doors and bring the key.

Caltex presents Trans Sport Show


BRIAN Drummond, Caltex general manager for lubricants, and Sophie delos Santos, TSI president, seal the contract with a handshake.

CALTEX Philippines Inc. recently firmed up its participation as the main presenter of Trans Sport Show 2001, the country's biggest and most prestigious motoring event today.

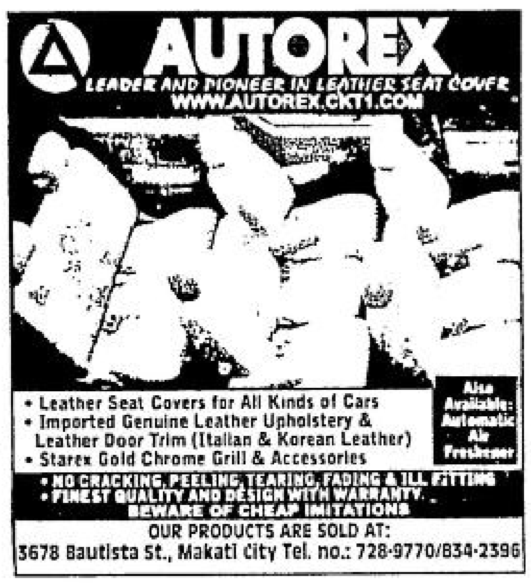
During the nine-day event, Caltex will showcase its Havoline Energy motor oil that uses breakthrough advanced fluid technology to efficiently lubricate and enhance today's engine performance and provide maximum engine protection like a fully synthetic engine oil.

Organized by TradeShow International Inc., this year's show will highlight the automobile industry's current trend toward retro designs, resulting in several new cars being patterned after modern variation of famous body styles from the past. Several retro designed cars and their predecessors will be on display during the show.

Trans Sport Show 2001 will be held from April 21 to 29 at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Other companies making this yearly event possible are platinum sponsor Siemens and gold sponsors RM-Diamont, Formula 1, and Dayco.

Major show sponsors are Holiday Concepts, Infobahn Communications, Digital Resources Corp., Outlast Premium Battery and Daktronics. Minor sponsors are Pharmaton, BMB Karaoke Super Band, Pioneer, 105.1 Crossover, 89.9 dwTM, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-lite and Citylite 88.3.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Powered to the extreme.

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CATS MOTORS INC.-GREENHILLS 1004 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan, MM Tel. 723-5808 to 12, 727-0181 to 85 Fax 726-7741/721-1039
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AUTOLAND SALES 1616 Quezon Avenue, Q.C. Tels 926-0156, 928-2532 Fax 922-3108
TRANSCOR MOTORS INC. Araneta Street, Singcang, Bacolod City 6100 Tels. 034 435 0221 to 23, 433-0331 435-3593 to 94 Fax 034 433-0330
TRANSCOR MOTORS INC. San Benigno Aquino Drive Diversion Road, Iloilo City 5000 Tels 033 320 0952, 320-0567 Fax 033 320-0536
AUTOLAND SALES Dau, Pampanga Tels. 045 332-3342, 045 332-3343 Fax 045 332-3341

The symbol of excellence fo

MESSAGE

I convey my warmest felicitations and congratulations to this year's recipients of the Philippine AXA Life Insurance Corporation Annual Awards.

I commend the officers, staff and the outstanding sales associates for their continued efforts to upgrade the quality of products and services of the life insurance industry in our country. The professional standards of Philippine AXA Life and the dedicated peformance of its people are worthy of emulation by other commercial, trade, industrial and service sectors in creating a vibrant business environment to bolster our nation's economy.

The life insurance industry is one of the more steady revenue contributors to the national government. As one of the fastest growing leaders in the financial services sectors, I hope that Philippine AXA Life will continue to promote savings consciousness among Filipinos and improve pension products to allow individuals to retire with financial security.

The transition to a new administration underscores the importance of nation building. Let us work together towards rebuilding our nation.

Mabuhay!

HON. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
PRESIDENT
Republic of the Philippines

I share the joy and pride of Philippine AXA Life on the occasion of its Annual Awards Ceremony. It is on moments like this when I am happily reminded of the in-roads that we have collectively gained in our effort to bring the gospel of financial security through insurance to many Filipino households.

The honorees of this occasion represent the breed of men and women I truly admire in this great vision of providing protection to at least 20% of the population. The fact that we have achieved this goal is a testimony to what all of us in the insurance industry can achieve when we act together towards a common goal. I thank you all for your support and contribution to this endeavor.

It is because of the dedication and hard work of men and women like you that I continue to believe that the job we have set forth to accomplish can even be surpassed in order to reach out to many who need the security of products and services.

I congratulate the awardees and Philippine AXA Life for achieving another milestone in their march towards the accomplishment of their personal and corporate visions. I urge them to use this achievement as their inspiration to conquer greater challenges and bigger goals. As you continue to strive for excellence in your noble work, do so with the assurance that you are not only serving your clients but your country as well.

ATTY. EDUARDO T. MALINIS
COMMISSIONER
Office of the Insurance Commission

For the past five years, Philippine AXA Life has displayed steady progress in its overall performance. This was a direct result of a joint effort from numerous teams of the company who worked with relentless effort and commitment. A team worthy of special mention are the recipients of the highest honor given by Philippine AXA Life during its Annual Awards.

The 24th Annual Awards on March 22, 2001 at the Shangri-La Hotel Manila will definitely be an inspiring occasion as it is a gathering of the créme de la créme. I look forward to an evening whereby I will be surrounded by people who exude brillance and exemplify excellence.

I commend the forty-six individuals who will walk the aisle of recognition. Your accomplishments are worthy of emulation. To the Annual Award winners, let your passion for excellence bring you to loftier goals!

ELVIRA ONG CHAN
CHAIRPERSON
Philippine AXA Life Insurance Corporation

The 24th Annual Awards marks the culmination of a year of hardwork and selflessness as we honor our top sales achievers for 2000 in a night of glitter and glamour at the Shangri-La Hotel Manila.

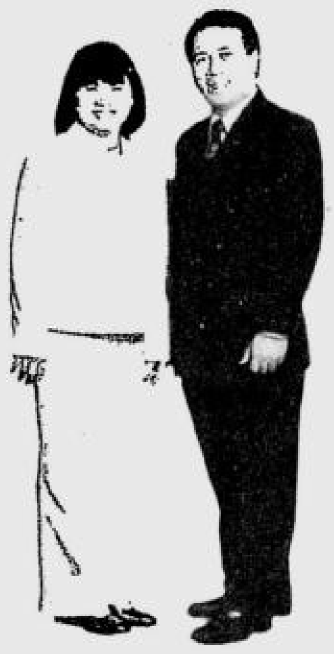
A splendid celebration with the theme "Stroke of Excellence", truly befits individuals who have successfully conquered the challenges that faced them. Your individual success translated to the company's success as well. Thus, Philippine AXA Life is now well positioned to accelerate its growth to become a force to reckon within the local life insurance industry.

It is the commitment to excellence of Philippine AXA Life's top achievers for year 2000 that led them to a display of extraordinary accomplishment. Congratulations and thank you for your contribution.

To the Annual Awards winners of Philippine AXA Life, may you enjoy greater success in the continuation of your crusade towards excellence!

CHEE M. CHEONG
PRESIDENT
Philippine AXA Life

Branch Achievement Award (L-R)
Rolando Tiongco — Tiongco Branch
Mabini Fajardo, Sr. — Fajardo Branch
Emily Co Tan — Golden Life



Executive League (L-R)
Yolanda Abalos — Fajardo Branch
Joel Delfin — Fajardo Branch

Elaine Ronquillo
C

President's Club (L-R)
Romeo Vedar — Tiongco Branch
Lornilia Fabros — Fajardo Branch
Erlina Bantigue — Fajardo Branch
Annalyn Talens — Fajardo Branch
Emrie Rafallo — Metrolife
*Melanie Uy — Alcantar Branch
Mayra Mendezabal — Fajardo Branch
Victoria Laguitan — Fajardo Branch
*Merly Yu — Metrolife
Lilibeth Entino — Fajardo Branch
Juls Lorenzo — Metrolife
*Belyne Bangcot — Pogoy Branch
Eduardo Delfino III — M

Maria C
Me

Regular Business Specialist (L-R)
Elaine Ronquillo — Tiongco Branch
Eleanor Fabie — Metrolife
Caridad Yu — Auspicious Life
Wendy Go — Metropolitan Life
Emelita de Villa — Metrolife
Eduardo Delfino III — Metrolife
Lorenzo Chung — Auspicious Life

Regular Busin
Romeo Vedar — Tiongco Branch
Melzar Borrome — Tiongco
Marxchelin Oliva — Metrolife
Lydia Adequina — Ceb

Salary Savings Specialists (L-R)
Anavel Mondaga — Pogoy Branch
Stella Maris Castro — Tiongco Branch
Lornilia Fabros — Fajardo Branch
Erlina Bantigue — Fajardo Branch
Lilibeth Entino — Fajardo Branch
Annalyn Talens — Fajardo Branch
Victoria Laguitan — Fajardo Branch
Lanie Jamindang — Metrolife
Normie Casala — Fajardo Branch
Juls Lorenzo — Fajardo Branch
*Belyne Bangcot — Pogoy Branch
*Merly Yu — Metrolife
*Nestor Abalos — Fajardo Branch
*Enrique Delfin — Fajardo Branch

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r our excellent performers.

From two prominent institutions in the financial services industry - Metrobank, the symbol for national strength and AXA group, the symbol for global dominance - comes the inspiration for excellence, Philippine AXA Life!

This year, forty-six men and women excelled to be part of Philippine AXA Life's roster of Annual Awardees. Our best Sales Performers in 2000 embody our company's commitment to service and quality. Their achievements and exceptional skills contribute in making AXA one of the world's largest and most successful insurance companies.

We owe much of our success to these partners who went beyond their duties to bring AXA's world-class products and services to every Filipino. That is why we present them with a new and permanent symbol of excellence - Stroke of Excellence trophy. We award the Stroke of Excellence trophy to all who exemplify Philippine AXA Life's advocacy to excellence while helping people build a more secure future.

To our best performers in 2000, thank you for continuing to give our client's your very best. Continue to forge ahead to achieve greater goals.

Chairman's Club (L-R)

ridad Yu
ous Life

Emelita de Villa
Metrolife

Ronald Lester Tan
Golden Life

Eleanor Fabie
Metrolife

Rookie Underwriter Award (L-R)

nceepcion Phúa
Cebu

rvin Keng
iden Life

Linda Velasco
Cebu

Jun Abrazaldo
Fajardo Branch

Carla Chan
Metrolife

Ma. Luzcel Veloso
Tiongco Branch

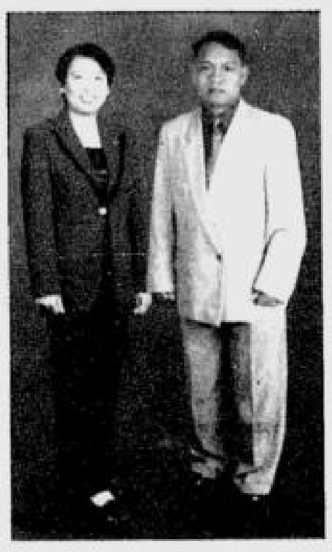
Melzar Borromeo
Tiongco Branch

Marylou Gayloa
Tiongco Branch

Gregorio Gipal
Metrolife

Lorinda Eugenio
Tiongco Branch

*Carmen Ramos
Metrolife



Rookie Agency Manager

Aileen Gomez
Obar Branch

Romelito Caganan
Fajardo Branch

ess Specialist (L-R)

Emrie Rafallo
Metrolife

Ronald Lester Tan
Golden Life

*Rosalie Loyola
Tiongco Branch

*Melanie Uy
Alcantar Branch

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Taishan Insurance Broker

Aurora
rokers

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MABINI FAJARDO, SR.
Fajardo Branch
BRANCH MANAGER
OF THE YEAR

EMELITA DE VILLA
Metrolife Branch
SALES UNDERWRITER OF THE YEAR
PA Producer of the Year

JOEL DELFIN
Fajardo Branch
AGENCY MANAGER
OF THE YEAR

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

Globe taps X-men for mobile game application

GLOBE Handyphone, the cellular phone service of Globe Telecom, has recently unveiled its offering of a mobile game based on the popular "X-men" characters of Marvel Comics. With the popularity of the X-men franchise, Globe Handyphone's offering of the new game – called "X-men the Mobile Game" – is seen by Globe as a major attraction that will significantly promote the practice of mobile gaming in the country.

"The X-men are one of the most popular comic book characters in the world, and we now that they have a very big following here in the country. Bringing the X-men to the Philippines in the form of a game that's available via Globe Handyphone is definitely an exciting development for our subscribers," said Globe Telecom assistant vice president for marketing Nicanor Santiago III.

The X-men mobile game is being offered through Globe's partnership with leading global wireless entertainment provider Riot-E, which utilizes the game under an official exclusive agreement with Marvel Comics, Inc. Finland-based Riot-E creates, publishes and distributes entertainment to be used globally in any mobile device. Riot-E's products are based on SMS (Short Message Service), WAP (Wireless Application Protocol) and other emerging technologies.

First time players using Infotext are required to register by texting the word "xmen" and sending this message to Globe's 2324 access number. The service will acknowledge the player's registry to the service with a text message and will offer further instructions on how to progress in the game.

The WAP version of the X-men game can be accessed by clicking on the XMEN link under the "New Sites" and "Games" category of the WAP menu. Clicking on "Start the mission" will start the game and the player will have to choose a target city to liberate.

Globe Handyphone users playing the X-men game on WAP are charged regular WAP airtime corresponding to their subscription plan: ranging from P4 to P8 per minute during peak hours, and from P2 to P3 during off-peak hours. When playing the X-men game via Infotext, meanwhile, each successful text message sent to "2324" is charged P2 for plan subscribers and P2.50 for pre-paid subscribers.

Aside from the X-men mobile game, Globe Handyphone has other mobile games available to its subscribers like the Handypet, an interactive virtual pet, and trivia games.

MICROSOFT AGREEMENT

In its bid to standardize all worldwide subsidiaries, Iberpacific Professional Services recently forged an agreement with software leader Microsoft Philippines in cooperation with Microsoft partner Nexus Technologies. By signing up for the MS Select License Agreement, all transactions conducted by Iberpacific and its global subsidiaries are now hinged on a host of reliable and scalable Microsoft products suite and volume license benefits at a discount. Present in the contract signing were (seated, from left) Juan Chua, president of Nexus Technologies; Richard Francis, managing director of Microsoft Philippines; Jesus Carrasco Soto, chief technology officer of Soluziona Internacional (parent company of Iberpacific); and Mirko Moeller, VP for corporate services of Iberpacific. Witnessing the signing were (standing from left) Paolo Salonga, product manager of Nexus Technologies; Jess Santiago, large account manager of Microsoft Philippines; Raymond Huang, director for enterprise business group of Microsoft Philippines; and Alfonso Olondriz, VP sales for Nexus Technologies.

MALAYAN BANK OPENS GMA-7 SERVICE

Malayan Bank recently opened its GMA Service Unit located in the new compound of GMA-7 along Edsa, Quezon City. Principal sponsors during the event were Councilor Nanette C. Daza of 4th District, Quezon City, renowned TV personality and noted newscaster Mel Tiangco and Lawyer Patricio A. Garcia, treasurer and stockholder of Philippine Daily Inquirer. Also present during the event was Jay Sonza, a distinguished radio and television personality. Malayan Bank will offer its wide range of bank services to GMA-7 officers, employees and talents.

Burgoo soon to open at Rockwell

DUE to insistent public demand, your favorite family restaurant, Burgoo American Bar and Restaurant will open its second outlet in Makati, at the 3rd level of Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center. The location is ideal as it is located in front of the mall's cinemas - a perfect place to dine in before or after watching the movies.

"Like its original branch at Tomas Morato Extension in Quezon City, expect a warm and cozy interior here at Rockwell," says Albert Alavera, Burgoo's general manager. "The restaurant, which seats 200 persons, also has a lovely aquarium to heighten the feeling of serenity which many of our patrons really appreciate," he continues. The brick-wall façade and tiled floorings add to a homey and contemporary atmosphere in the restaurant. A unique detail of the restaurant is the table top paper covering which the guests can doodle and draw on with crayons while waiting for their orders to be served.

Burgoo boasts of its open kitchen that serves more than 85 sumptuous menu items, including 30 new dishes such as Santa Fe Spring Rolls, Quesadillas, Bread with Spinach-Mushroom Dip, Seafood de Napoli, Quatro del Pesce, Lamb Chops, Pizza Margherita, Cheesy Beef Baked Macaroni, and Tiramisu. Don't forget to try Burgoo's all time favorites such as the Oklahoma-Style Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Buffalo Chicken Wings, Calamares, Chimichanga, Lemon Peppered Grilled Lapu-Lapu, Supreme Pizza, Seafood Pasta, and Oreo Cheesecake. All of these are prepared and served in appetizing and huge portions by the restaurant's smart and efficient staff.

DIETHER GOES CHEESY

Young actor Diether Ocampo poses in jest during the shoot of Pizza Hut's new Cheesy Crust campaign. The popular actor's endorsement has made 1 million people eat their pizza backward with the Stuffed Crust pizza last year. He dares to duplicate that feat with the Cheesy Crust (baked cheddar on a mozzarella stuffed crust pizza) this year.

ALL MAKATI CLASSIC CHAMPS

The Rotary Club of Makati Paseo de Roxas emerged Champion of the 8th All Makati Classic held at Wack Wack Golf Club March 5.Holding the overall team champion trophy is president Jun-Jun Abcede. With him are (from left) president Roland Young of RCMakati, the host club, district governor Jun Perez and PE Johnny Carlos, tournament chair. Behind them are the members of the Rotary Club of Makati Paseo de Roxas.

ZONTA CLUB'S DAY CENTER

Officers of the Zonta Club Manila II recently visited the children in the Day Center on Anacleto Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila, whic the club has been maintaining for the last five years. Among those in the photo are Imelda Villacorta, club president ; area director Nonie Basilio, Lt., Gov. Dandy Gomez and officers Flor Salvador, Janet Garcia and Jo Catapang.

WEBSITE TO SAVE KIDS

Adrian Yun, president and CEO of Intergate Browser Systems, Inc., shakes hands with Chief Supt. Hermogenes Ebdane of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) during the launching of the website Sagipbata.com at the Makati Sports Club. Others in photo are (from left): Secretary Corazon Juliano Soliman of the Department of Social Welfare and Development; James Kong, chair of Intergate, Inc.; and lawyer Angelique Somera of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). Sagipbata.com is a public service project of Intergate, PNP, PAOCTF, NBI and DSWD intended to help find missing children through the Web.

Bits & Clips

Fresh kinno

The Embassy of Pakistan introduces kinnos. Called "ponkan" here, kinnos will be launched at the Makati Shangri-La today with DAR Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor as guest of honor. Kinno may be sampled at the Pakistani Kinnos exhibit at Robinson's Place Manila, SM Megamall Bldg. A; and Makati Mall, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center until March 24.-

Environment program launched

Two environmental programs will be launched at the Ateneo campus in Loyola Heights, Quezon City on March 24 and 25 by the Center for Environmental Awareness and Education (CEAE): Project WET (water education for teachers) and Project Learning Tree (PLT). For details, contact CEAE program director Lora M. Tan at 899-5660, 895-6031 to 39 loc. 141, 0917-5270691 or log on to www.ceae.org; www.plt.org; or www.montana.edu/wwwwet or email lora@ceae.org.

Pokemon 2001 mall tour sked

The next monthly tournament of the Pokemon Trading Card Game (TCG) series is on March 25 at the Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas Center; May 27 at Robinsons Manila; and the grand finals on June 24 at the Megatrade Hall in SM Megamall.

Lou at Lite N' Live

On March 24, Saturday, Lou Bonnevie will hit the live concert circuit once more at Examiner's Lite N' Live. Lite N' Live is located at 52 Examiner Street, West Triangle, Quezon City. A 'Petite Band will also perform.

Shop@theFort

On March 24-25 at the NBC Tent at the Fort, Karl Edward International Bazaar offers great bargains. Apply for a free AIG credit card and get free entrance and discounts on purchases charged to AIG. The next bazaars at The Fort are on April 21-22 and May 12-13. Interested parties may call Florian Enriquez or Genie Belmonte at tel. nos. 374-3726 or 414-3530 to 31.

AIM alumni homecoming

The Asian Institute of Management Alumni Association holds its homecoming celebration March 30 at the Rockwell Tennis Courts, Makati City. Call the Secretariat care of Weng or Daycee at tel. nos. 7517151 to 53, or email alumniclub@mail.aimonline.org, or visit www.aimalumniphil.org. Meanwhile, the AIM Golf Tournament 2001 is set on March 23 at the Sta. Elena Golf Course, Cabuyao, Laguna.

New burger resto

There's a new Brothers Burger in Don Bosco, Pasong Tamo. Enjoy 100-percent Australian beef patties, oatmeal-encrusted buns, and a plethora of toppings to choose from. All Brothers Burger outlets in Ortigas, Rockwell, and Pasong Tamo accept delivery.

DMAP logistics forum

The Distribution Management Association of the Philippines conducts a half-day business forum on measuring logistics performance on March 23. Call Ed Sanchez at 671-8670, fax at 671-4793, or email dmap@i-manila.com.ph.

ISO 9002 CERTIFIED

Air Liquide Philippines, Inc. (Alpi), subsidiary of Air Liquide France, world leader in industrial and medical gases, had their Pasig Plant certified to ISO 9002 standard Oct. 2000. Receiving the award from Yasuo Tekehisa of BVQI (middle) are (from left) Oscar Asilo, Pasig plant manager; Jean-Francois Lecouffe, president and CEO; Julian Gonzales Jr., VP for technical operations and Ronnie Mangalindan, Alpi's quality management representative, at formal rites held at the Manila Peninsula Hotel last Feb. 22.

RI DISTRICT 3830 CELEBRATES DISCON

Rotary International District 3830 celebrates its District Conference at Westin Philippine Plaza. Discon Fiesta 2001 unites over 4,000 rotarians, spouses and rotaractors for the two-day event. Seen cutting the ribbon to officially open the Rotary Window Exhibit are First Ann Vivian Perez, district governor Jun Perez, Rotary International president's representative Jackson S.L. Hsieh and Ann Juliet. Assisting are president Camile Kitane of the Rotary Club of Makati Jose P. Rizal and district governor-elect Ernie Salas. Discon Fiesta 2001 is led by the host club, the Rotary Club of Parañaque Central under president Abe Jose, and Discon Fiesta 2001 chair Bobby Icasas. District 3830 covers the areas of Makati, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Taguig, Pateros and the island of Palawan. There are currently 62 Rotary Clubs.

A DAY WITH PATTI AUSTIN AT ODYSSEY

Last Feb. 7, Filipinos got the chance to see Patti Austin at Odyssey XL SM Megamall. Fans eagerly queued as the ultimate diva signed autographs during her visit to the country's number one music store. Austin's repackaged album, "The Best of Patti Austin," contains 10 tracks which include five of her most popular songs – "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes,' "Stop Look Listen," "All Behind Us Now," "Love Letters" and "If I Believe." For 23 years, Odyssey has been consistent in keeping its loyal fanbase excited by bringing in international and OPM artists alike in in-store concerts and autograph signings. Last year Odyssey featured Ronan Keating, Stephen Gately, M2M, David Pomeranz and big OPM artists Gary V., Regine Velasquez, Side A, Barbie's Cradle and a lot more. Shown is the ultimate diva Patti Austin with Odyssey marketing manager Emily Boaquina and assistant marketing manager Joy Santeco.

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"For God
so loved
the world,
that He gave
His only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes
in Him
shall not
perish
but have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

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INSPECTORS GENERAL OF THE 33RD AND
LAST DEGREE, ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH
RITE OF FREEMASONRY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Deeply mourn the passing of

ILL. OLEGARIO A. NERI, 33°

Past SGIG, Orient of Northwestern Mindanao

Who died at 6:45 PM on March 18, 2001 at the age 74.

He is survived by his wife **Nelly**; children **Lucila** and **Edgar**, **Nona** and **Rodolfo**, **Leilani** and **Zosimo**, **Noel** and **Mila** and **Leiluna** and **Jerry**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends.
We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Malindang Lodge No. 130, Ozamiz City.
The Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite and Order of Eastern Star
Funeral Services are scheduled before the burial date.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 25, 2001 at
UCCP Cemetery, Ozamiz City.

Our Dearly Beloved

DR. JOSE D. SOBERANO (Ph.D.)

*Peacefully joined our Lord on March 20, 2001
at the age of 73.*

His loving wife **Celing**; children **Salvador**, **Nenita** and **Eric**, **Rubicon Rodrigo**, **Rita** and **Efren**, **Jose Caesar** and **Rory**, **Donnie**, **Lina** and **Carlos**; grandchildren **Nerizza**, **Arianne**, **Angelbert**, **Adelaine**, **Carlhin** and **Chester** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels at 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Ma. Victoria Garcia-Cabreza

April 13, 1954 -- March 20, 2001

of San Isidro, Guagua, Pampanga and Manila

*has passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 20, 2001*

Her bereaved beloved **Ruben**; son **Bobby**; mother **Catalina**; siblings **Letty**, **Edith** & **Yet**, **Susan**, **Zendy** & **Danny**, **Bob**, **Lynn**, and **Eric** & **Anne**; cousins, nephews and nieces request other relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of Vikki's soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Andrew Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2001 at 10:00 AM
at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City,
after the 9:00 AM Mass at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

We design
OBITUARIES
for free.

SEN. GIL J. PUYAT

**Founder of MANILABANK
20th Death Anniversary
March 22, 2001**

Schedule of Masses:

6:15 AM	Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati City
6:15 AM	Santuario de San Jose Greenhills
6:15 AM	Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Boulevard
8:30 AM	MANILABANK Head Office Ayala Avenue, Makati City

---

*In loving memory of our Mom and Dad
who now rest peacefully in the arms of God*

Agustin Embuscado Saulo

September 14, 1939 - March 21, 2001

Estelita Gementiza Saulo

January 5, 1943 - December 12, 2001

We the children **Pavel**, **Teena** and **Estela**; their in-laws **Lea** and **Nowie**; grandchildren **John**, **Annie**, **Lei-Lei** and **Jose Pablo** thank relatives and friends for their thoughts and prayers.
Loy's body lies in state at St. Martin Chapel, Sto. Domingo Church.
Cremation will be on March 25, 2001 at
Eternal Gardens Crematory Baesa, Kalookan City.

DOLORES DUKA CARREON

*Peacefully joined her Creator on March 20, 2001
at the age of 86.*

Her loving husband **Felipe** (†); children **Elmer** (†) and **Norma**, **Virgilio** and **Lilia**, **Floro** (†) and **Jahara**, **Sonia** and **Johnny**; grandchildren **Lauro** and family, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Aringay, La Union.

Interment will be announced later. Please contact tel. no. 045-8600587.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
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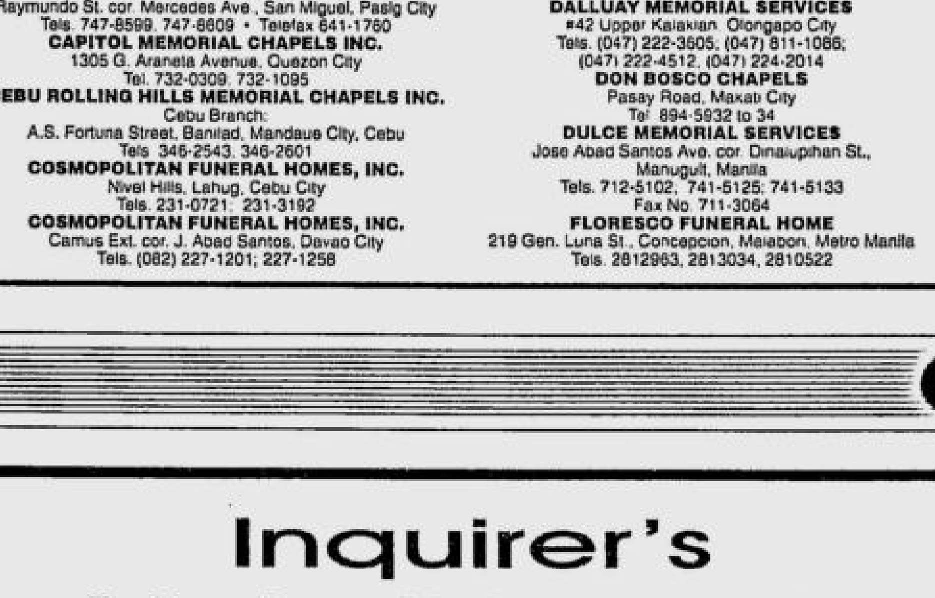

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that the following stock certificates of SVJ Farms, Inc. were lost.

STOCK CERT. NO.	IN THE NAME OF	NO. OF SHARES
001	Atty. Serafin Villanueva, Jr.	640
002	Alice M. Villanueva	640
003	Ma. Rosario M. Villanueva	600
004	Ma. Regina M. Villanueva	600
005	Lourdes L. Villanueva	20
006	Atty. Serafin L. Villanueva	3,750
007	Alice M. Villanueva	3,750
008	Atty. Serafin L. Villanueva	1,750
009	Alice M. Villanueva	2,000
010	Ma. Rosario M. Villanueva	1,750
011	Ma. Regina M. Villanueva	1,750
012	Alice M. Villanueva	390
013	Ma. Rosario M. Villanueva	1,000
014	Ma. Regina M. Villanueva	1,000
015	Antonio Cabral, Jr.	390
016	Atty. Serafin L. Villanueva	10
017	Ma. Rosario V. Cabral	1,190
018	Ma. Regina Villanueva	1,190
019	Vicente Geolingo	5
020	Atty. Serafin Villanueva	5
021	Jose Manuel L. Villanueva	21
022	Ma. Regina Villanueva	596
023	Rosario V. Cabral	595
024	Antonio A. Cabral, Jr.	388

After the expiration of one year from the date of the last publication of this notice and no contest has been presented, new certificates will be issued by the corporation to the shareholder as above stated.

(PDI – Mar. 22, 29 & Apr. 5, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

**INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SPUG-MMSS-01-005**

Interested bidders are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the NPC-SPUG Visayas Staff House, 1558 Edition St., Lahug, Cebu City.

**SPUG VISAYAS-CEBU CITY
BIDDING DATE: APRIL 16, 2001
TIME: 2:00 PM**

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	Two (2) Years Lease Contract of NPC Tugboat Nos. 1 & 2

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting **March 26, 2001** upon payment of P1,000.00, which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D. and company authorization. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. only at the above mentioned address.

A Pre-Bidding Conference to clarify the provisions of the issued tender documents, will be held don **April 5, 2001**, 2:00 PM at the same venue stated above.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
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PSD-SPUG

(PDI – March 22, 2001)

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VL Multinational 600m² Terms Acceptble 911-7940

PASIG

**Greenwoods P5,100 Only w/Tambak • 671-4421

**Comml LOT Sixto Ave Cor 962m² 141-259275

Greenwoods 136 sqm 127754202

QUEZON CITY

**Only P1.3M Leland Dr. Novaliches 671-4421

**Neopolitan Ph6 P4500/m² 300m² w/Fence 671-4421

** Capitol Dist 600sm 3800/sm 645-3731

•Acropolis 414m² P41T/m² •South DBO 721-5226

Comm'l Lot 2127m² @P14T per m² Q-Hiway 911-7940

Del Monte Ave QC LA-1711m² Vac Lot 928-1469

Lincoln St. Roosevelt LA714m² 928-1469 V-Lot

**Nr Ateneo 900sm 5.5T /sm Nice Loc. 645-3731

**Scout Cor LOT w/ Fence 800m² 231/m² 9283267

Sct. Cor Lot 1481-114621

TIERRA PURA LOTS 928-3267 • 141-210187

Sta Mesa Hts 1481-114621

West Tri. 434 P10.8M Old House DBO 721-5226

NEOPOLITAN nr Clubhse & SMFview 4lots all adjacent 2corner 9411487; 9420080

RIZAL

246m² 3.7T/m² VISTA VERDE Cainta 6467425

Kingsville Royale
180sqm P3300 9334971

TAYTAY 1H 3.2/m² 6453731

SAN JUAN

** N. Domingo 300sm No Flood 20T/sm 6453731

PROVINCIAL

** Bat 4.6H 600sm 1Km Fr. Calabarzon HW 645-3731

**Pampanga 27H Alng Mc Arthur H-way 220/m² 681-2457

Tagaytay Country Homes I 135m² 3,200/m² 928-3267

Puerto Princesa good 4 fstfood bank 0917-3711210

Tagaytay 2Adj Lots 780 & 805sqm • 723-2391

•Tiaong Quezon 3.6Hec• 600/m² Town Hway 7215226

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

PROVINCIAL

VL 551m² P3.5M Pandayan Meycauyan • 911-7940

OTHER AREAS

Comm'l Lot 2300m² P16T per sqm Malinta 911-7940

DAMAR VILLAGE 300 plus 2Sty hse nice • 928-3267

SEBUYAN 2Sty hse nice 267m² 10M • 928-3267

CL 600m² Malanday P16T /sqm Along Hway 911-7940

VARIOUS AREAS

COMM'L LOT
alng McArtHway, Marilac
59m² Good 4 24HStore&Grocery
Water refilling Statn/Pawnshop
V.ZUELA IND.
2,200 - 15.000sqm
@P1700 - P3000/sqm
100mtrs fr McA-Hway
MEYCAUAYAN
1HEC @P6000sqm
nrSanMiguel & Fatima Coll
Oth. Res./Comm'l Prop.
Ava. Prov. & M.M.
Call:F.S. Dulalia Realty
9270620•9292731
3616389

OPEN HOUSE
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Twnhses in QC
T-Sora/Proj8/Fview
also Marc.Hway
1.7 - 3.9M Split Down
up to 15 yrs to pay
CALOOCAN
DownPay-P20,160x4
P6,770.00/mo.
1 km to Malinta Exit
NORTH BEL-AIR
STA. RITA V
40 - 150sqm Lot & H&L
Nr. New TABE EXIT
Call:F.S. Dulalia Realty
9270620•9292731
3616389

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

KALOOCAN

**Caloocan GF 360m² 2Sty Use 3Sty Whse 9283267

MAKATI

**Rockwell 3 Units 2Brs Fast Selling 671-4421

1BR Furn Salcedo Village @ P3.5M • 911-7940

1BR Nobel Plaza FA45m² @P3.5M Makati 911-7940

•Rush! Le Domain 2BR 6M •90m² 4121825/ 150341394

A/R Greenbelt 1-3BR 7Mup 4121825 / 09177914366

Prince Plaza FA32m² SP Studio P2M Only 534-7949

Asia Tower Frt Greenbelt Studio FF P3.0M 534-7949

2B Salcedo Makati F-Furn 2T&B 1cg P3.9M 534-7949

The Peak Salcedo FA60m² 1Bed Fully Furn 534-7949

MANDALUYONG

RushIMegaPlaza 48.50sqm 1br 2.7MNeg 09178143792

Sedar-Ortigas 5.2M 3br/3tb Rush142sqm 09178143792

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 534-6610 Jojo

PARANAQUE

Nice BF TH Furn 3BR 1TB 1CG P3.5M • 911-7940

PASIG

**Renaissance Ortigas 1-3Br Rush Sale 6812457

*TEKTITE 111M² 4.2M Rush 110m²@280/m² 412-1825

**Nr C5 FA62 3Br 2Tb 1.7o Lmt 5Yrs 2 Pay 645-3731

**Nr C5 Res/Com TH 6M 357FA 156 O Int 5Y 645-3731

**OFF Condo Prestige Twr Emerald 4M 141-259275

Ortigas 5yrs Zero Interest S123BR 6712049/6719651

Pacific Place Ortigas 3BR 3TB Pkg SF 3.9M 6352115

AGUSAN DEL SUR STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY
Bunawan, Agusan del Sur

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITION

SUC PRESIDENT I

Minimum Qualifications for the Position:

1. Holder of an earned doctorate degree;
2. Not over 60 years old on the date of application;
3. Relevant and proven administrative leadership and experience;
4. Possess leadership and management skills; and
5. Known for probity and moral integrity.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, interested applicant must be able to submit the following clearance:

a. Ombudsman;
b. Civil Service Commission;
c. National Bureau of Investigation.

Application should be accompanied by:

a. Detailed Curriculum Vitaé, documentary evidence relative to the qualification;
b. Vision, Mission and Thrusts for the College.

Applicants are requested to submit seven (7) sets of their formal applications and certified supporting documents not later than April 27, 2001 to:

DR. EVELYN L. PASCUA
CHED Regional Director
Region 13 CARAGA, Butuan City
Tel. No. (085) 815-2429, or to

Dr. Thelma Y. Estremos
College/Board Secretary
ASSCAT, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P1.3EZterm swap ok RFO rent 2 own amenities big disc. 9132224 4381480

** Nr EDSA FA 64 LA50 2Tb Bn Nice Loc 2.7M 6453731

SCOUT THSES 4-7M Nice 3Sty • 928-3267

**Blueridge Like Bnew 250m² 3Br 2Cg 671-4421

Atherton 3.9M 3BR Bnew 4121825 / 09177914366

New Mla Nr St Lukes 9M 3Sty 4br 2cg New 4134411

NOVALICHES 350T 9390299

**Scout Townhse 115m² LOT 280m² 3Sty 5M Nice 9283267

RIZAL

Montalban 350T 913-0393

New 4BR 3T&B Marble Flr LA101m² FA160m² Sale P1.4M V.East 9137892 / 141-247311

SAN JUAN

**Annapolis Greenhills Condo 2-3Br 7-8M 9283267

Annapolis Greenhills 3BR Condo w/View 928-3267

One Beverly FA193m² 3BR 3TB P8.7M • 911-7940

PROVINCIAL

TH Marcos Hi-Way FA108 sqm P1.7M • 911-7940

OTHER AREAS

**1-3BR Condo Units Avail Call 894-4879 / 7526402

**Sct Madrinan Twnhse 7.4M 3Stry 2Pkg 230m² 5221651

MEMORIAL LOT

•ETERNAL GARDEN• Binan 4Lots 160T Neg. CP:09189146916 PGR:141105067

Heritage Park 141-692807

**Heritage Park Now Open Lawn Estates 671-4421

RESORT

**BF Resort Vill Las Pinas 276m² @ 5500 8749075

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

FONTANA SHARE 200T 928-3267 • 141-210187

FACTORY/WHSE

San Juan 1573m²whse off@ 23K/m² 8440130

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FACTORY/WHSE

**Ugong Bul Whse L3774 Tel 9281469 / 4534877

KALOOCAN

3620065 BRIONES 7AVE 2T8 S/T

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

WAREHOUSE FOR LEASE
Located at Balete St. Brgy. Lala-an, Silang, Cavite
Consisting of 8 almost new large factory - warehouses w/complete facilities &
READY TO OPERATE
Bldg. I - 3,216m²
Bldg. II -3,360m²
Bldg. III - 3,360m²
Bldg. IV - 3,300m²
Bldg.V - 5,000m²
Bldg. VI - 10,368m²
Bldg. VII - 6,696m²
Bldg. VIII - 3,888m²
Lease offers on any of the buildings will be considered at P50.00/m²
For Inquiries Call
Tel. (045) 893-0201 to 05
Fax(045)8930206 to 08

APARTMENT

MANDALUYONG

APT w/Grge Tel 7T 5357293

Studio Type Couple Only P3.5T Tel. 532-4446

HOUSE

MAKATI

Dasma Mkti 5br 4ba P140T 8133927/28

SANLO 3BR 5268048

QUEZON CITY

1BR nr Ateneo 7T 6819727

RIZAL

Country Homes Cainta P9T /mo Rent to Own 656-6491

MAKATI

**Amorsolo East Rockwell 1Br Pkg FF 50T 8253244

**Le Metroploe Salcedo 3br 2pkg 175m² FF 80T 8253244

Crown Tower Salcedo Vill 2BR 163sqm FF 896-6665

Makati Stud 1-2BR Furn Sunvalley Pque 4BR Hse 3TB 3 Garage •850-9507•

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CB RICHARD ELLIS
Managed Res Units
Dela Costa Makati
123 BR/FF 43-157m²
25-85K ★7522580/8487388
09178381928 ★09178112635
manila@cbre.com

MANILA

Burgundy Westbay
VCruz-Taft nr LaSalle
B'New Std/123 BR 11-37K
Coml/Ofc Units 42-90m²
752-2580 • 848-7388
0917-8381928 • 09178112635
manila@cbre.com

PASIG

**Phoenix Hgt Nr VVerde 1Br 75m² Pkg 30T 8253244

VVERDE 3BR FA=250SQM P35-38T • 723-2391

VVERDE 6 2BR P19T 723-2391 • 0917-3848111

QUEZON CITY

P4,500/mo.CUBAO
P6,500/mo.Malate
Call 911-3361 / 926-4071

OTHER AREAS

Park Ave. Mansion 1BR Studio 6-10/mo • 928-3267

VARIOUS AREAS

Condo 4 Rent Mkti./Mla. Tel.# 524-5323 524-6813

FOR LEASE

Nice 3br 1tb Mds Rm w/tb Makati 165/T/mo 911-7940

ROOM & BOARD

Near DLSU/Quirino Ave. Call 523-5465 / 523-8761

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

BUSINESS RENTAL

**Antel Global 142m² 350/m² Call 6812457

P1800/mo Stalls
Malate T-400-6420/23
Sn Pedro Lag. 8086006/07

**JMT BLdg 318m² at 280/m² Call 6812457

**Taipan Ortigas 129m² Call 681-2457

**Tektite 101m² Up at 300/m² Call 6812457

Ayala Ave 230m² & 245m² P350/m² Makati Ave 180m² P180/m² 8133828

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

8101 Pearl Plaza, Pearl Drive Ort. Center Pasig City 637-8101 / 637-8080

● PSE-TEKTITE ● 50m² FF 631-4648 / 57

Makati 4 Pre-School 75T LA400 Semi-Furn 534-7949

MALATE OFFICES 5268048

RESORT

EL Nido Beach Front P500 per sqm 10HA • 911-7940

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

● '95 316i A1 Cond. ● Full M3 Kit Tel.# 941-1446

HONDA

● '93 Civic LX 218T ● Lady Driven 941-1446

MAZDA

97½ Mazda A.T. Black P270T neg T-6569619

MERCEDES

MB 126 Body See 2 apprcte 634-8160

MITSUBISHI

S-Wagon Acq.'93 634-8160

BUSES/TRUCKS

Pre-Summer Sale: NKR P220 Canter P190 Delica P140 NHR P200 Daihatsu Van P95 Toyota Pass. Van P275T T-Ace P-up P130 Van P140 9126976; 4381480; 9132224

ISUZU 10PA1 Cargo 150T Canter Van 100T 6352115

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

5Units KUBOTA TRACTOR P680T 3610215 3672002

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Cheap Vans 'n MB 9344988

Starex, L300, Coaster Bus Cars 637-7396 • 631-3496

CAR VANS 413-5383

MALATE OFFICES 5268048

SANLO 3BR T#5268048/49

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CARS•VANS•8957247•8969966 BUS•CSTER•BRIDAL•8966623

H-100 Van/Honda 920-7360

HIAce L300 Urvan 8257135

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

MB100 HIAceL300 2973807

SELFDRIVE NEW CARS & VANS OPEN 24Hrs. ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

U Drive Cars Vans 8006595

•Car;Vans4535288;9296250

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Yellow Lab Male 5mo 7T Champ Grandpup 948-8240

SPORTING GOODS

Billiard 23T 25T & 30T New Accept C.Card • 781-9453

BTABLE B'New/Accessories (02)8014494/8020566

Cheap Tables 7311881

STRIKEMASTER
Bowling & Billiards
Sales & Rentals T-9341569

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN Gie 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
ROLEX
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

MISCELLANEOUS

Binocular Microscope Jeff 8891293 or 0919-3680448

FRESH FLOWERS
Arrangement 4 All Occasions
4 Delivery T/F 7163274/7140870

Generator *Set 3672002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Gen. Mgr Scty Agency 6313496

FEMALE

LADY BEAUTICIAN 913-7892

MAIDS direct hire 8425736

MALE/FEMALE

BOOKKEEPER T-5280722

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280722

CLERK / TYPIST T-3026840

HAIRDRESSER
(For QC & Makati Branch)
8956031 L2011

LAW CLERK T-3026893

Masseur/se; Aerobics/Gym Instructress: T-8922759 (Imee) or 646-1118 (Mila)

Nurses Mwife 4538342 4557931

URGENT OFFICE STAFF PLS. CALL 7366660 LK FOR GEM

DENTAL ASST. w/exp. CALL 8 1 5 - 3 9 3 3

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TELEMARKETING 2477469

•EARN FR HOME 6531008•

RTW Cash/Consign 3738821

Supervisor US$ 8951381

PERSONAL

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

MEMORANDUM

TO : All LTO Officials and Employees Concerned
SUBJECT : Direct Bank Payment of Licensing Fees
DATE : 16 March 2001

Effective **March 26, 2001**, this Office shall commence the implementation of the plan of paying directly through the banks for fees and charges being collected by the LTO, as part of the continuing effort to enhance the delivery of efficient frontline services to the public. Initially, it shall cover the fees paid for renewal of drivers' licenses at the licensing offices located in East Avenue, Quezon City. In this regard, all concerned are hereby directed to observe the following:

1. Only transactions involving plain renewal of unexpired professional/non-professional drivers' licenses and conductors licenses, which do not entail changes in the data/record of the license and the collection of surcharges for penalty and the like are covered by this directive.

2. Aforecited transactions are made only at the Licensing Section or the Pilot Licensing Unit.

3. Applicants shall be advised by the LTO Office concerned that payment of licensing fees may be made at the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) LTO Extension Unit.

A cash deposit slip in triplicate shall be filled up by the payor under account no. BTR 0012-222-38 for validation by the bank teller, instead of the payment order form. He shall likewise indicate his/her driver's license number at the back of the deposit slip, in triplicate.

4. The licensing office processes the application upon presentation by the payor of the validated cash deposit slip.

5. Should the license being renewed turn out to be fake, the payor is not entitled to a refund of the payment made which shall be forfeited in favor of the government.

6. The validated deposit slip evidencing payment made at the authorized bank shall not be deemed as a temporary driver's license pending processing of the application of the LTO office concerned.

For guidance and strict compliance.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO M. ABENINA
Brig. Gen. AFP (Ret.)
Assistant Secretary

(PDI – March 22, 2001)

AUCTION SALE

Cordero Pawnshop
New Farmers Plaza QC
137 C.Palanca Quipo
Cordero-Santos Pawnshop
2494 Taft Ave Pasay
Cordero South Pawnshop
2673 South Ave Makati
Cordero SC Pawnshop
17A Zamora St. SFDM QC
EMCCO Bldg. Meyc. Bul.
Auction Sale on all Expired Loans from Sept. 1, 2000 Sept. 30, 2000 on Mar. 31, 2001 @ respective loc.

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION SALE
• APRIL 02, 2001 •
All unredeemed articles up to NOV. 1-31, 2000 in the following branches:
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
Pinatubo St. Mand 10AM
Producers Mkt Mand 11AM
109 Dela Rosa St Mkt 1PM
108 Legaspi St Mktl 2PM
V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

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www.jobmarketonline.com

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD
San Miguel Avenue Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR RATE INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF NO 4256 WITH PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY

ERB CASE NO. 2001-06

CAPIZ ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC (CAPELCO)
Applicant

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant Capiz Electric Cooperative Inc (CAPELCO) on January 19 2001 of an application for authority to increase its rates in the amount of PO 4256 with prayer for provision relief.

The Board has set the said application for hearing on April 19 and 2 2001 at two o clock (2 00 p.m.) in the afternoon at the ERB Room 15th Floor Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of initial hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Board their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceeding may request that before the date of initial hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application. Likewise any such interested party may examine the application, other pertinent records filed with this Board during the usual office hours

WITNESS the Honorable MELINDA L OCAMPO Chairman and Honorable ALBERTO D DOSAYLA OSCAR E ALA NICOMEDES B DEYNATE and MARIETTA U LARRACAS, Members Energy Regulatory Board this 1st day of February, 2001 at Pasig City

(Sgd.) ARMIDO O. INUMERABLE
Executive Director

(PDI – Mar 22 & 23 2001)

CEP

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM
REBAP - PASIG CHAPTER

Rack's Restaurant,
El Pueblo, Julia Vargas Ave.,
Ortigas Center

March 24 & 31, 2001,
Saturdays 8-5 p.m.

Romy Judan - 641-7882 /
Billie Pilar 633-7603 to 10

ANNOUNCEMENT

TO ALL U.P. - CREDIT COOPERATIVE MEMBERS:

We are please to invite you to attend the 56th Annual General Assembly and Election of Officers on Thursday, March 29, 2001 at ANG BAHAY NG ALUMNI, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City. Registration will start at 12:00 noon followed by General Assembly and Election of Officers at 1:00 - 5:00 PM.

MANAGEMENT

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig
(NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION)
Lungsod ng Quezon

OFFICE ADDRESS: NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
E. DE LOS SANTOS AVENUE
QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

TELEPHONE NOS.: 929-6071 to 78
CABLE: NIAPHIL
TELEX: 42602 NIA PM

INVITATION TO BID

Bid No. 0015-01

PRINTING & DELIVERY OF ANNUAL REPORT, BROCHURES & POSTERS

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) invites interested bidders to participate in the Printing and Delivery of the following:

1,500 copies NIA Annual Report
40,000 copies of El Niño Information Brochures
5,000 copies of El Niño Posters

Interested bidders may obtain bid documents from 02 April 2001 to 17 April 2001 at the Procurement Division, Ground Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, Tel. Nos. 921-3906 and 922-4768 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00).

A Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on 20 April 2001, 2:00 PM at the Conference Room at the Office of the Assistant Administrator for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City.

Bid opening shall be on 26 April 2001 at the same time and venue where the Pre-Bid Conference shall be held.

All bids must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any or all informalities or to award such bid to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL Q. ENRIQUEZ
Assistant Administrator for
Administrative Services

(PDI – Mar. 22 & 23, 2001)

FOR SALE

BOILERS (Enertecht)

1 unit 450 HP 3 Pass Wetback Boiler
1 unit 300 HP 3 Pass Wetback Boiler

COMPACT POWDER FILLING & PACKAGING MACHINES

4 units Komack KP-109
1 unit Liquid Feeding Packer

All items are offered **as is where is.**

For details call Gerry or Dado at **681-7961** or Ms. Lulu Jose at **631-8101** local **7902**

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Bits & bytes

Q. Where did the computer terms *bits* and *bytes* come from?

A. Of the two, *bit* is older, dating to at least 1948. The earliest usage cited in the Oxford English Dictionary, an article by C.E. Shannon in *Bell Systems Technical Journal*, credits a J.W. Tukey with the coinage. The term is an abbreviated form of *binary digit*, chosen probably because it is also a play on the meaning of the standard word bit signifying a small part. The term *byte*, meaning eight bits, is of less certain origin, but probably was coined by someone at International Business Machines (IBM) around 1964. The earliest cite in the OED dates from an article in *IBM Systems Journal* from that year. Some have suggested that it is an abbreviation for *BInary digiT Eight* (CARV) and that the *Y* was substituted for the *I* so to prevent typographical confusion with *bit* (SAF7). Neither of these claims is well substantiated, although it is certain that byte was influenced and is a play on bit. Another suggestion in SAF7 is that it is short for *BinarY TErm*. Again, this lacks substantiation. Also playful, but less well known, is the term *nybble* or *nibble*, meaning half a bite, or four bits.

Name Game. Apple Computer. Nobody is quite sure as to the origin of the name of the well-known make of home computer. Legend has it that the company was conceived by Steven Jobs and Stephen Wozniak in the garage of Jobs' parents' home in Cupertino, California on April Fool's Day 1976, and as Jobs was eating an apple at the time. Another story says it was partly inspired by memories of a pleasant summer Jobs had spent working in the apple orchards of Oregon. Still another tale links the name of the company's new generation of 'Macintosh' personal computers in 1984 with the particular variety of apple called Mcintosh (after John Mcintosh, who discovered it in Ontario in 1796).

WORD WATCH

Mansanas : from the Spanish *manzana* (no 's'), 'apple.'

PDI -- March 22, 2001

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES COLLEGE BAGUIO
Governor Pack Road, Baguio City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The U.P. College Baguio, through its Prequalification, Bid and Award Committee (PBAC), invites all interested and relevantly experienced parties for the pre-qualification and bidding of the following Medium class "A" infrastructure project:

PROJECT: Construction of the Second Floor of the UPCB Administration Building
LOCATION: University of the Philippines College Baguio
Governor Pack Road, Baguio City

Please submit a letter of intent with the following attachments:

1. Name, address and work experience for the last 2 years
2. SEC Registration papers (Corporations)
3. PCAB Contractor's License (Contractors)
4. Latest financial statement duly accredited and certified by a CPA
5. All other information called for in the Pre-C Form

The pre-qualification and bidding process shall proceed in accordance with the following schedule:

PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING SCHEDULE

1. Issuance of Pre-C form to qualifying bidders - *March 22-30*
2. Submission of Pre-qualification documents - *April 6*
3. Notification of pre-qualified and disqualified bidders - *April 20*
4. Pre-bid conference and issuance of bid documents - *April 23*
5. Last day of submitting bids and opening of bids - *May 7, 9:00 AM*
6. Notification of winning and losing bidders - *May 15*

(All pre-qualified bidders must be present during the opening of bids.)

Interested parties may get the Pre-C form and bid documents from the Office of the Associate Dean for Administration or the Supply and Property Management Office, UPCB upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00. Metro Manila-based bidders may get the Pre-C Form from the System Budget Office, UP System, Diliman, Q.C. c/o Director Victoria Catibog.

The University of the Philippines College Baguio reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the University of the Philippines. The College also reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuse to accept the contract and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **BENITO C. CARDENAS**, *Associate Dean for Administration*
Tel. Nos. 0919-2201199/(074) 304-3027

(PDI – March 22, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
TARLAC COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
Camiling, Tarlac
Telephone No.: (045) 934-0216
E-mail: tca@mozcom.com

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NOTICE OF SEARCH & CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees formally and publicly announces that the Tarlac College of Agriculture (TCA) Presidency is now open. Interested applicants are hereby advised to apply to the Search Committee for the next TCA Presidency headed by CHED Regional Director Remigia Nathanielz.

c/o Ms. Eleonor Imbang
Office of Commissioner Mona D. Valisno
Chairman, TCA Board of Trustees
DAP Building, San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Must be a Filipino citizen;
2. Has earned a doctoral degree in the field of Agriculture and other related disciplines;
3. Must have five (5) years relevant managerial and administrative experience;
4. Has no prior conviction-civil/administrative/criminal cases.

APPLICANTS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

1. Comprehensive Resumé
2. Mission and vision for Tarlac College of Agriculture
3. List of accomplishments in previous administrative and managerial positions
4. NBI, Ombudsman and Police Clearances and disclosure of all administrative and criminal cases

Applicants are requested to submit seven (7) of their formal applications and certified supporting documents not later than **March 31, 2001.**

(PDI – March 20 & 22, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS
PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (PBAC)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Department of Foreign Affairs invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and to submit sealed bids for the following services:

a. JANITORIAL SERVICES
b. HEALTH CARE SERVICES
c. DIPLOMATIC POUCH SERVICES
d. PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES

Bid documents may be secured from the Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Floor, DFA Building, 2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, beginning **15 March 2001** after payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 1,000.00 charged for the pre-qualification papers and processing for each of the above service. Pre-qualification requirements should be submitted on or before the dates specified below. A notarized undertaking authorizing the Department and/or its representative to verify the submissions shall be submitted together with the pre-qualification documents. For purposes of clarifying certain issues, Pre-Bid Conferences may be held upon determination by PBAC.

The detailed Terms of Reference for these services will be distributed to the pre-qualified bidders after the payment of non-refundable administrative fee of PHP 5,000.00 to the Cashier of the Department. Sealed bids shall be submitted to the PBAC not later than the time and date specified below and thereafter shall be publicly opened on the date and place also specified below. For purposes of bidding these services, the following schedule shall be observed:

ACTIVITY	JANITORIAL SERVICE	HEALTH CARE SERVICE	DIPLOMATIC POUCH SERVICE	PHOTOCOPYING SERVICE
Submission of Pre-qual. Docs	04 April 2001, 1700H (deadline)	05 April 2001, 1700H (deadline)	06 April 2001, 1700H (deadline)	06 April 2001, 1700H (deadline)
Submission of Sealed Bids	10 May 2001, 1000H, DFA Board Lounge	10 May 2001, 1400H, DFA Board Lounge	11 May 2001, 1000H, DFA Board Lounge	11 May 2001, 1400H, DFA Board Lounge
Opening of Sealed Bids	10 May 2001, 1100H, DFA Board Lounge	10 May 2001, 1500H, DFA Board Lounge	11 May 2001, 1100H, DFA Board Lounge	11 May 2001, 1500H, DFA Board Lounge

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the Department. The Department assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. The Department also reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuse to accept the contract.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN**
Undersecretary for Administration
and Chairperson, PBAC

(PDI--March 15, 22 & 29, 2001)

Dutch firm loses interest in NSC

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

DUTCH steelmaker Ispat International NV has pulled out its offer to acquire 80 percent of the shuttered National Steel Corp. due to its inability to raise funding for a takeover.

Ispat's withdrawal has further dimmed NSC's chances of getting a white knight to bail it out of its financial troubles because the Dutch firm was the best among the pending offers for the failed steel giant.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said Ispat had informed the National Development Co. that it was no longer interested in buying into NSC because of its stock's weak performance at the New York Stock Exchange.

The state-run NDC is currently mediating between the Malaysian majority owners of NSC and the creditor banks to reach an amicable settlement that would lead to the reopening of its Iligan steel plant, which was closed in November 1999.

Ispat, the world's 8th biggest steelmaker, had previously offered to infuse $100 million in new capital into NSC and pay off $200 million to the creditor-banks over 20 years at zero interest. Ispat is willing to liquidate the loans much earlier if NSC's turnaround time is shorter and its overseas initial public offering is successful.

Despite its enticing offer, creditor-banks balked at Ispat's proposal because it had no firm commitment and the Dutch steelmaker was demanding exclusivity in the negotiations, which would mean shutting out other prospective investors.

But Ispat's proposal was widely considered as the most serious among the offers received by creditor banks for the financially troubled NSC. Roxas said most of the offers they have received were unacceptable because they were only for the short-term and covered only tolling operations or just leasing NSC's facilities.

Other groups that have expressed interest in NSC were Novolipetsk Iron and Steel Corp. of Russia, Duferco S.A., Grupo Jacinto, Allengoal, Glencore Holdings, the Cathay Pacific Steel Co. group, and the Pentium group.

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PLDT says no plan to take over ETPI

PHILIPPINE Long Distance and Telephone Co., the country's dominant telecommunication service provider, said yesterday it was not negotiating to take over Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc (ETPI).

PLDT issued the statement in reaction to an INQUIRER report which said that it has expressed interest in acquiring control of local telephone company ETPI by easing out ETPI's Australian partner.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PLDT said it was "not engaged in any discussions regarding the acquisition of a majority stake in ETPI."

PLDT said in a separate statement that its mobile phone unit, Smart Communications Inc., would sell its 9.8-percent stake in ETPI to focus on its wireless business.

Smart CEO and president Napoleon Nazareno said the company has entered into a conditional sale agreement with CPR Philippines Inc. for its holdings in ETPI.

CPR Holdings will purchase 2.55 million ETPI shares held by Smart at P85 per share for a total of P216.58 million.

The completion of the transaction is subject to certain conditions, including the waiver by ETPI and other shareholders who have rights of first refusal over the said shares.

"This divestment is a logical move for Smart," said Nazareno. He said the divestment continued Smart's strategy of focusing its resources on its wireless business.

Reuters

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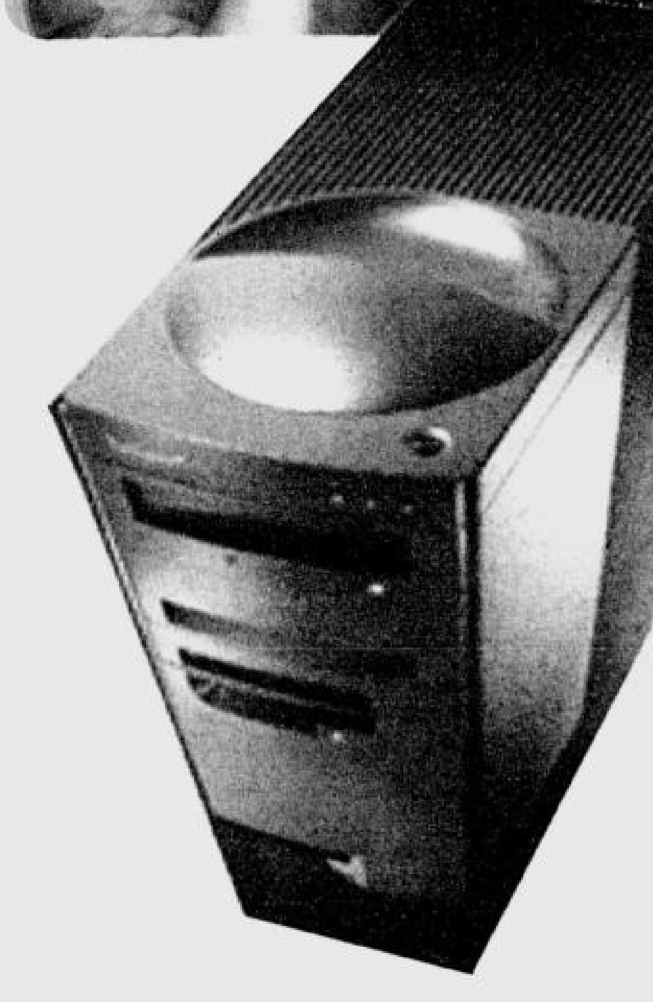

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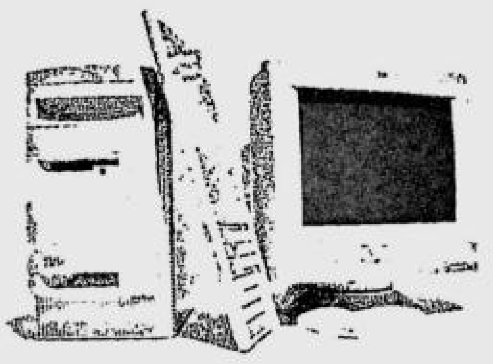

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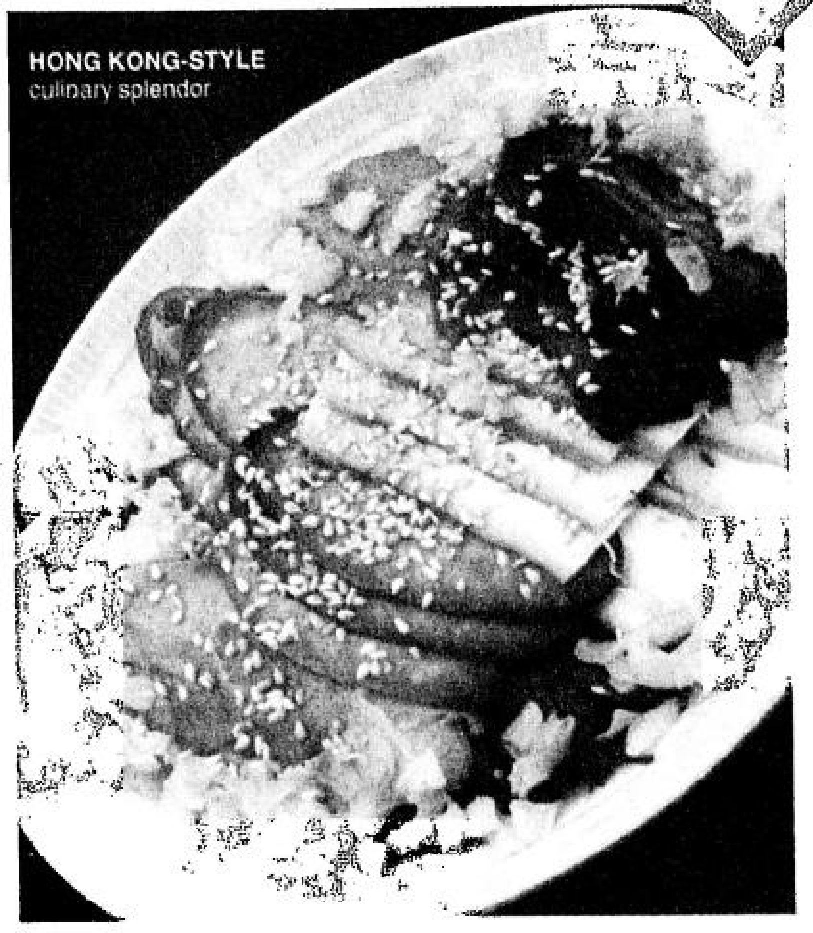

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Coming happily together at Hap Chang

Story on page C2

GINA Y. NAVARRO

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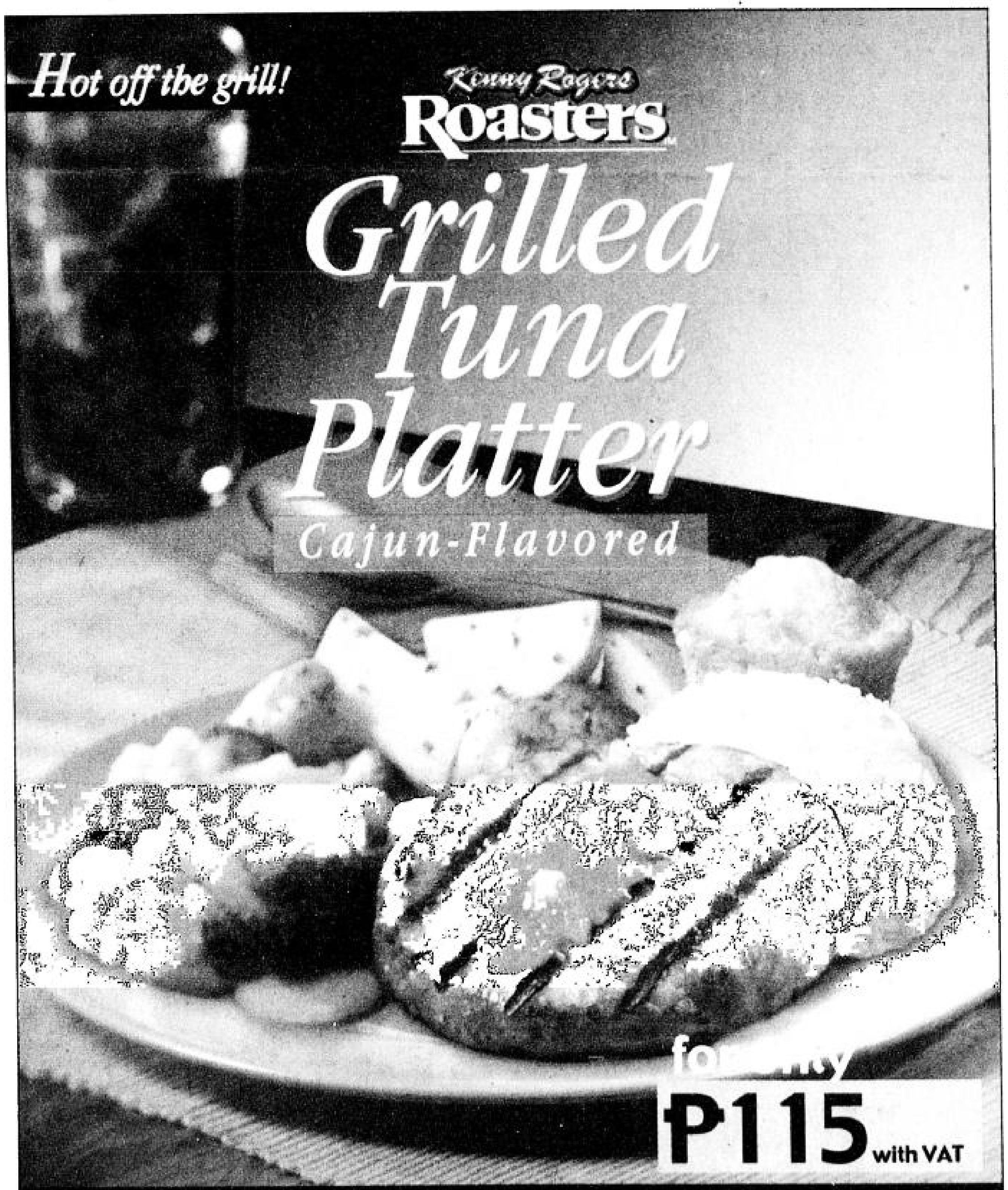

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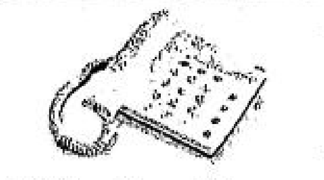

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Coming happily together at Hap Chang

By Lito B. Zulueta
Photos by Mike Alquinto

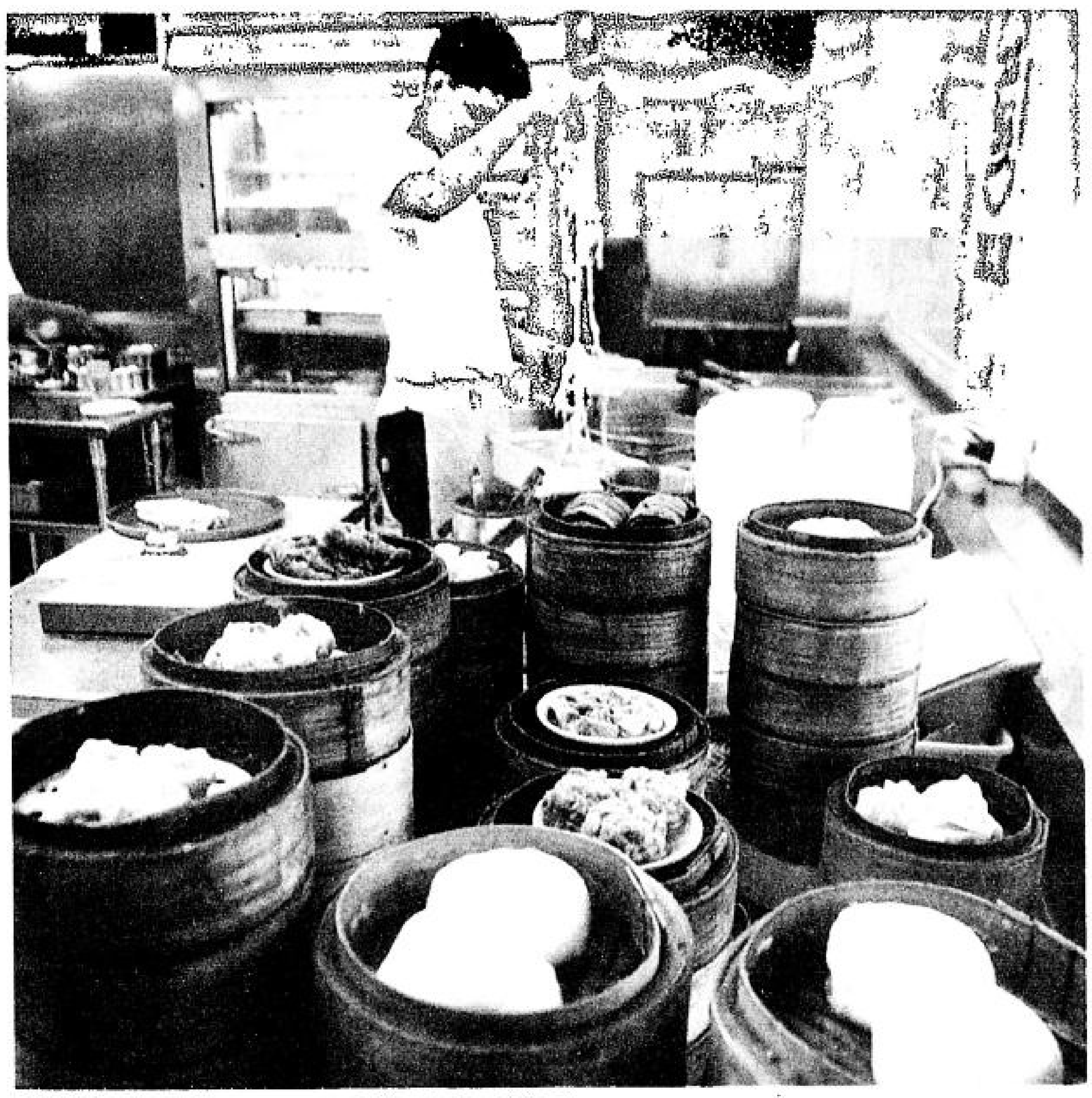
DENIZENS of Malate's street parties know where to cap the night after the endless bar-hopping and sousing: it's this small, cramped affair on Malvar Street near party centers Nakpil and Adriatico Streets that goes by the name of Hap Chang Tea House.

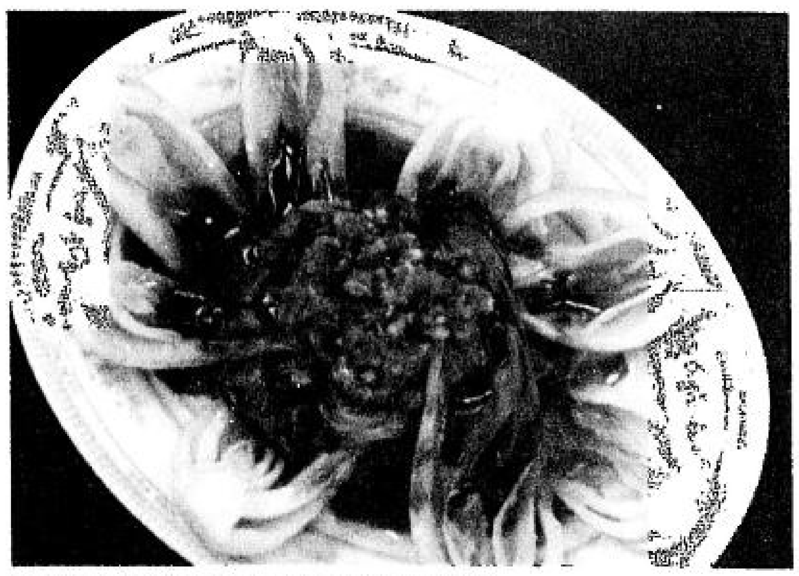
If you want to check the place, you have to wait to be seated. And it's not as if they have the anteroom for that. You have to sit and wait on the curb, where you tarry with the card number given to you by the polite security guard, who doubles as receptionist.

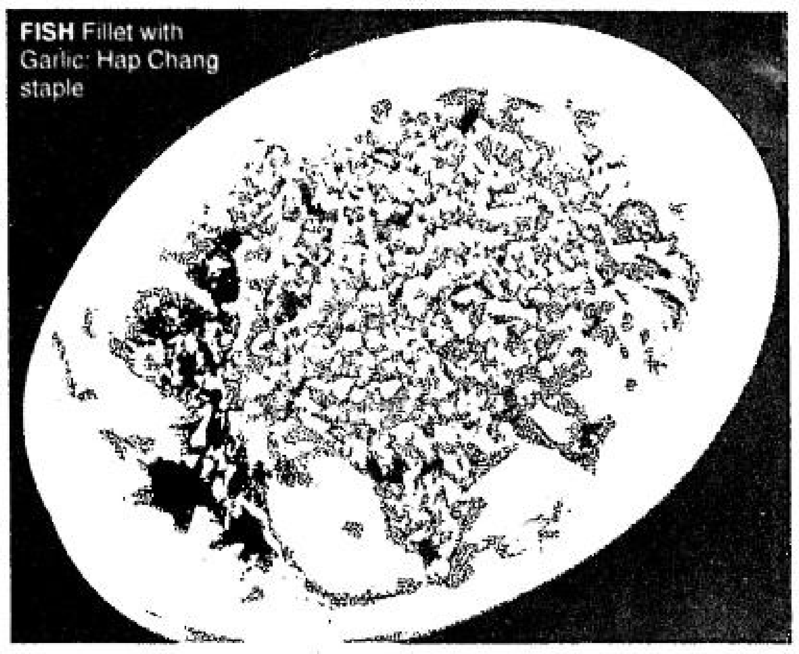
But the long wait is worth it. Inside, Hap Chang whips up both Chinese staples and exotics, Hong Kong-style, with prodigious dash. The favorites include dimsum (they make the most smashing Chicken Feet and Spare Ribs), Fish Fillet or Fish Head under tons of garlic and Hainanese Chicken.

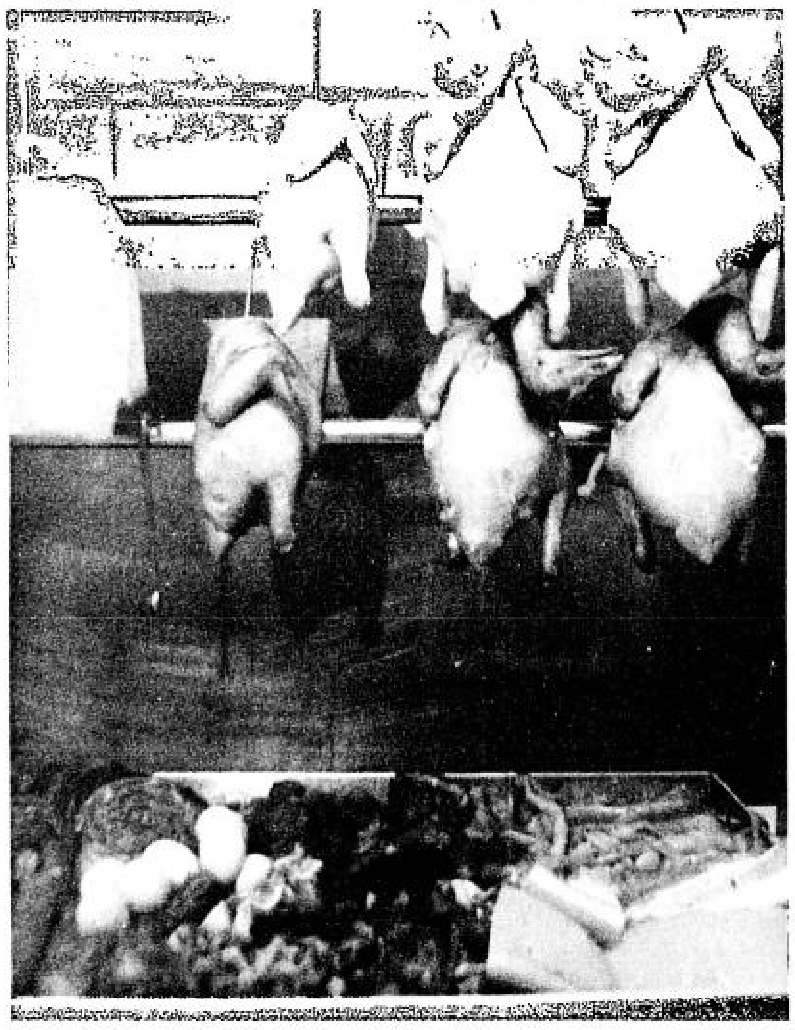
The Hainanese White Chicken is exceptional. People compare it with the best White Chicken in Singapore, which was said to be deposed President Joseph Estrada's favorite whenever he would visit the small city-state during his truncated term.

However, we say Hap Chang's chicken is better. The quality of the meat and preparation is the same as Singapore's, but the piece de resistance is the ginger sauce. While Singapore's sauce is bitter (even *mapakla*, as the Tagalogs would say), Hap Chang's is sweet, spicy and ultimately savory. (The difference obviously lies in the incomparable virtues of Philippine ginger, which is never bitter, but always tangy, sweet and aromatic.)


DIMSUM and noodles are prepared with eyeview of diners.


VEGETABLES prepared in inimitable fashion


FISH Fillet with Garlic: Hap Chang staple


HAP Chang's steamed chicken and other exotica are laid out like trophies.

Expansion

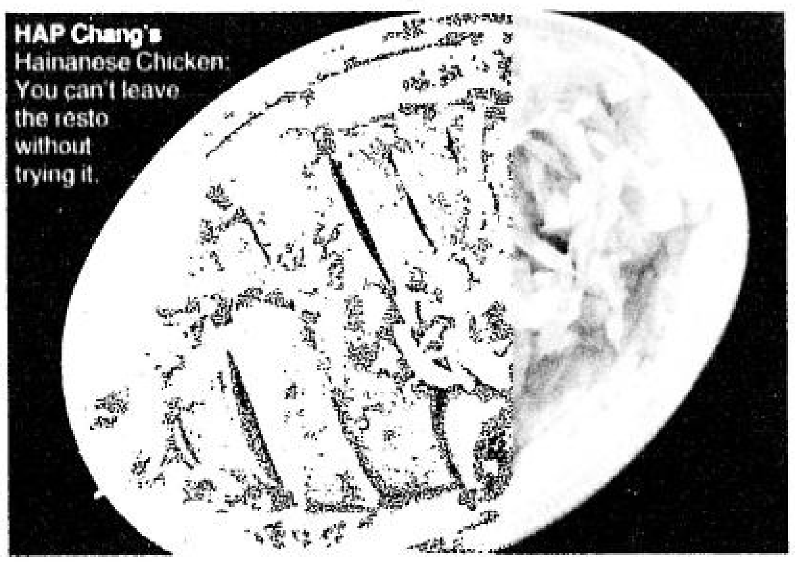
Recently, the Malate faithful have found several establishments with the Hap Chang name sprouting in just about every imaginable corner of the metropolis. What naked raid of a patent! Even piracy has not spared Hap Chang!

Nothing to worry. As it is, Hap Chang is expanding. In fact, it has just opened its seventh branch on the corner of Banawe Street and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City (tel. no. 731-4427).

The oddity is that the Banawe branch is called "Haf Chang" Tea House. The other branches have their own odd spellings: one of three branches on Tomas Mapua Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila (yes, three) is named "Hap Tian" (tel. no. 733-3710, 733-3694); another on Tomas Mapua Street is called "Hap Chan"; one recently opened branch, on West Avenue in Quezon City (tel. nos. 415-2157 and –2172), is called "Hafchang."

But whatever the Anglicized spelling, confusing or amusing, all of the names mean the same thing: a coming together happily in one table.

> It whips up Chinese delights, Hong Kong-style, including Hainanese chicken with incomparable ginger sauce


HAP Chang's Hainanese Chicken: You can't leave the resto without trying it.

Hap Chang started as a "hole-in-the-wall" place on Tomas Mapua with only a few tables where noodles and dimsum were served. The place became so crowded that a branch was put up just a few steps away. Today, there are three branches on the street, with one of them (tel. nos. 736-4137, -4147 and –4486) now serving as nerve center for the entire metropolitan operation.

Uniform interiors

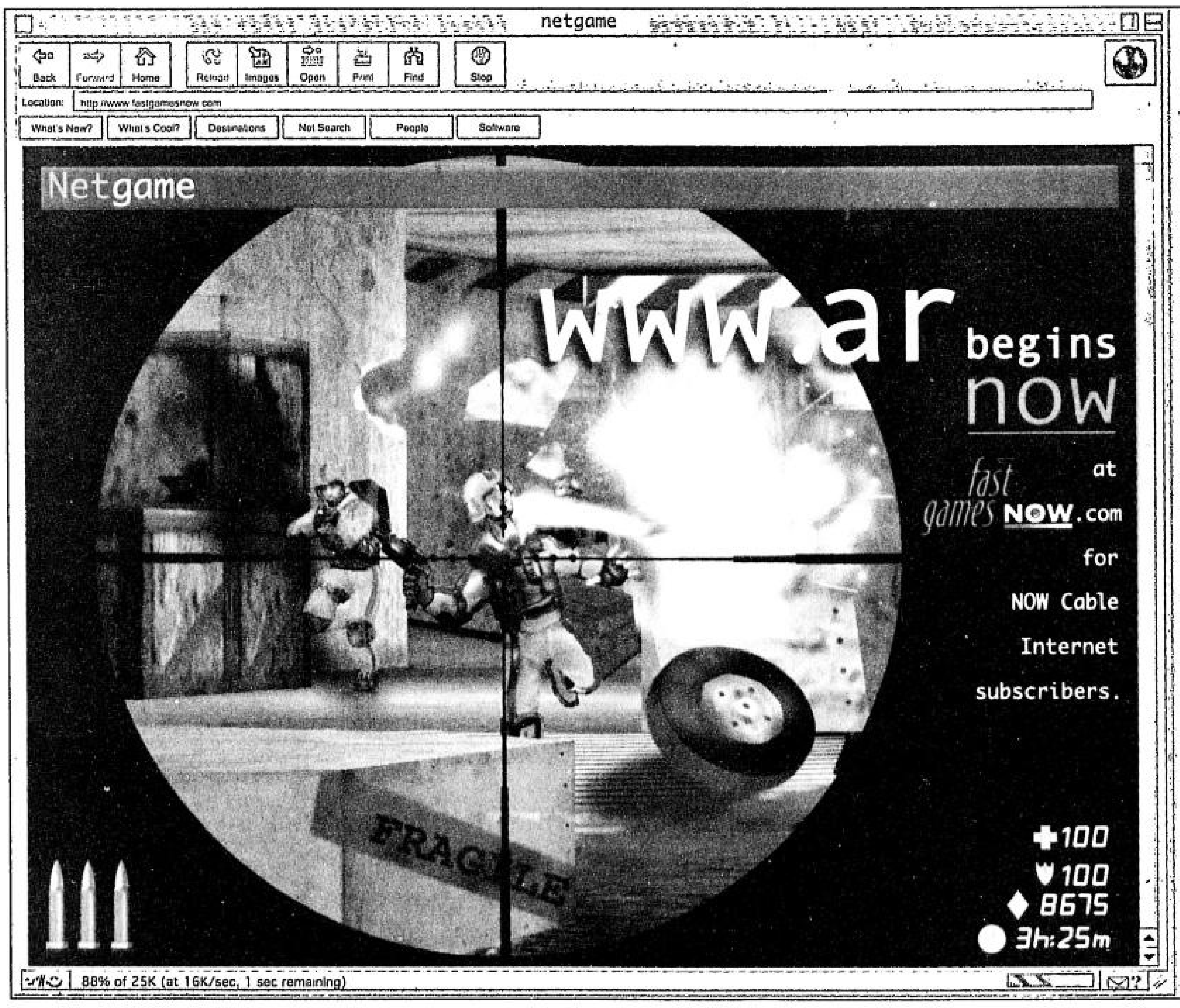
David Yau runs the chain. His father opened the nondescript Sta. Cruz location in 1996, fashioning it after the Hong Kong restaurants of his childhood. Yeo is now president-CEO of the chain, while Chito Go is supervisor.

We dropped by one of the newest branches recently—the one on the ground floor of the Flores Building on Makati Avenue (tel. nos. 899-0504 and –0528) right across the International Bank—and found the place teeming with people. We noticed right away the similarity of the interiors with those of the other branches: the unassuming tables and chairs, the white tiles that provide the inside with a translucent, business-like atmosphere, and the sense of continuum from table to kitchen.

In fact, nothing separates the kitchen from the dining tables. The better for diners to see how their food is prepared and garnished, a culinary instruction and appreciation class if there was one.

Lydia Sy, who helps Go supervise the place, said executive chef Kwok Man Wah ensures quality control and harmony in the dish preparation in all of the branches. She explained Hap Chang's success owes to its delicious dishes as well as inexpensive prices and able management.

Customer service is also a key ingredient to Hap Chang's success. Go said they always try to please the customer. If the customer complains about the food, the dish is changed for a better one—at no extra cost. He explained Hap Chang would like to live up to its name—a coming together happily all the time.



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Japanese cooking classes set

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"Korean Snacks" with chef Gene Gonzales is scheduled on March 26, with dishes like Kim Kuee, Yukwe, White Fish Salad, Clams and Wakama Salad and Milsam.

"Thai Cooking" with chef Chariya on March 27. The class includes recipes for Chicken with Spicy Shrimp Paste, Shrimp with Wansoy Sauce, Lapu-Lapu with Chili Tamarind, Hard-Boiled Egg with Shittake and Liempo and Spicy Kang Kong.

On March 28, chef Chariya will conduct the "All About Fish" workshop. Lessons include recipes for Steamed Fish Pudding, Crispy Dalag with Chili Sauce, Steamed Fish, Fish Cake with Cucumber Salad. "The Chef's Thai Hawker Cooking" follows on March 31.

The Center for Asian Culinary Studies is located at 455 P. Guevarra St., San Juan. Call Marilyn or Glady at 725-5089, 726-9326 or 722-0349.

Hello and goodbye

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

PIER 1. "*Hanggang* pier *lamang*," they used to say about those who had to say farewell to wartime loves. But a pier is not just for farewells; it is also for hellos: witness the crush of people meeting and arriving at pier areas.

In the case of Pier 1 (Lot 35 Block 11, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, tel. 635-6398), this is a big hello, because it is new, trendy and so successful it is ready to branch out. It fills the street parking space, and requires a squadron of valet parking attendants. On restaurant row in Libis, QC, it stands unique, consisting of six or more (we argued about whether there were more behind the visible structure) container vans bolted together, glassed in and turned into an eating place seating some 250, both inside and outside, al fresco under umbrellas. *Ihaw-ihaw* is its game, but glorified and glamorized.

Of our seven food choices, we found the Balut al Ajillo and Kalderetang Usa served sizzling, and the Crispy Chicken with Mojos somewhat cold, perhaps because of the distance from the kitchen to our outdoor table. But all our seafood dishes were excellent: Inihaw na Blue Marlin Belly, Kuhol sa Gata, Hipon sa Aligue, and so were the Bacon-Wrapped Chestnuts. We were not able to sample the *tapa*, said to be owner Francis Juan's mother's recipe, or the *sisig*, once a Pampango specialty, now a popular urban choice.

Francis Juan must be credited for the imaginative venue—trendy, right on, so very *now*; and for a menu that builds on traditional dishes (*adobo*, *kare-kare*, etc.) and street-side *inihaw*. This is a restaurant that could not have happened a few years ago; it took the shipping industry (for the containers) and youth to make it possible. Forward and onward we go.

HAPPY EATING

STEPH BRAVO

Cookbook

HELLO and welcome as well to Sandy Daza's cookbook, "Happy Eating" (R&G Publications, 2001). It includes "everyday *ulam* from the hit TV show 'Cooking with the Dazas.' " It was brought to me by his proud mother, Nora V. Daza, all of whose children have cooking and recipe-developing talents. Sandy, fellow columnist in the PDI, ventures far and wide in search of regional and traditional dishes, and I follow him faithfully.

Sandy claims that he went to Paris, to his mother's Aux Iles Philippines restaurant, to act as waiter and cashier. When one day the regular cook did not show up, he was pressed into service to cook house specialties, and voila, a chef was born. "The experience," he writes in the preface, "jumpstarted my career and encouraged me to venture further into the culinary arts." A graduate of the Cornell University Hotel and Restaurant School, and of the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, he has the academic grounding as well as the experience. *May karapatan*, as they say.

"Happy Eating" is a collection of his favorite recipes, those he developed, experienced and researched ("My mom's cookbook, 'Let's Cook with Nora,' was one of my sources and an inspiration..."). They are written simply, assuming, as with a TV audience, that the reader/viewer is an amateur rather than a professional cook.

Thus we find appetizers like Dilis Fans, Lumpiang Sotanghon, French-Bread Pizza and Tinapa Flavored Tofu Balls. Soups start with Chicken Mami, on through Fish Chowder and Ho To Tay to Pancit Molo. Rice dishes include Japanese and Oriental Fried Rice, and Shanghai Paella, with oyster and chili garlic sauces. One can go to town with the noodle dishes: Pancit Canton Guisado, Pancit Langlang (said to be one of the favorite *meriendas* of Jose Rizal), Pancit Lomi, Mixed Seafood Pasta and Garlic Anchovy Carbonara.

Fowl is well served by Chicken Tinola, Chicken à la King, Chicken Cordon Bleu Rolls, Pandan Chicken and Pinaupong Manok. Despite the beef fears of our day, one could have Arroz à la Cubana, Lengua con Champignon and Daza Burgers. Pork, the Philippine favorite, is featured in Barbecued Pata and Beans, Knockout Knuckles (crispy *pata*) and Patang Humba. The seafood section should be extremely popular, considering all the water life teeming in our seas, rivers, brooks and flooded rice fields. Thus: Creamed Sugpong Pampango, Rellenong Bangus, Rellenong Hipon, Shantung Pampano and Chili Coconut Squid.

Ang gulay ng ating buhay, the vegetables of our fields, forests and backyards are transformed into Adobong Sitaw sa Gata, Monggo con Kenchi, Rellenong Talong, Asian Salad (with hoisin and soy sauces, and sesame seeds), even Creamy Mashed Potatoes.

To please the Pinoy sweet tooth, try Apple Pudding with Butterscotch Sauce, Cassava Macapuno Chewies, Chocolate Chip Banana Bars, Corn and Sago Custard, Reyna Blanca and Sandy's Cheesecake.

The cookbook ends with an index—unusual in cookbooks. It also has a folding stand as table calendars do, so that one can make it stand on a kitchen counter. The heavy-coated paper in which each page is printed makes sure that the cookbook remains undamaged despite spills and splatters.

Hello and welcome indeed, to "Happy Eating."

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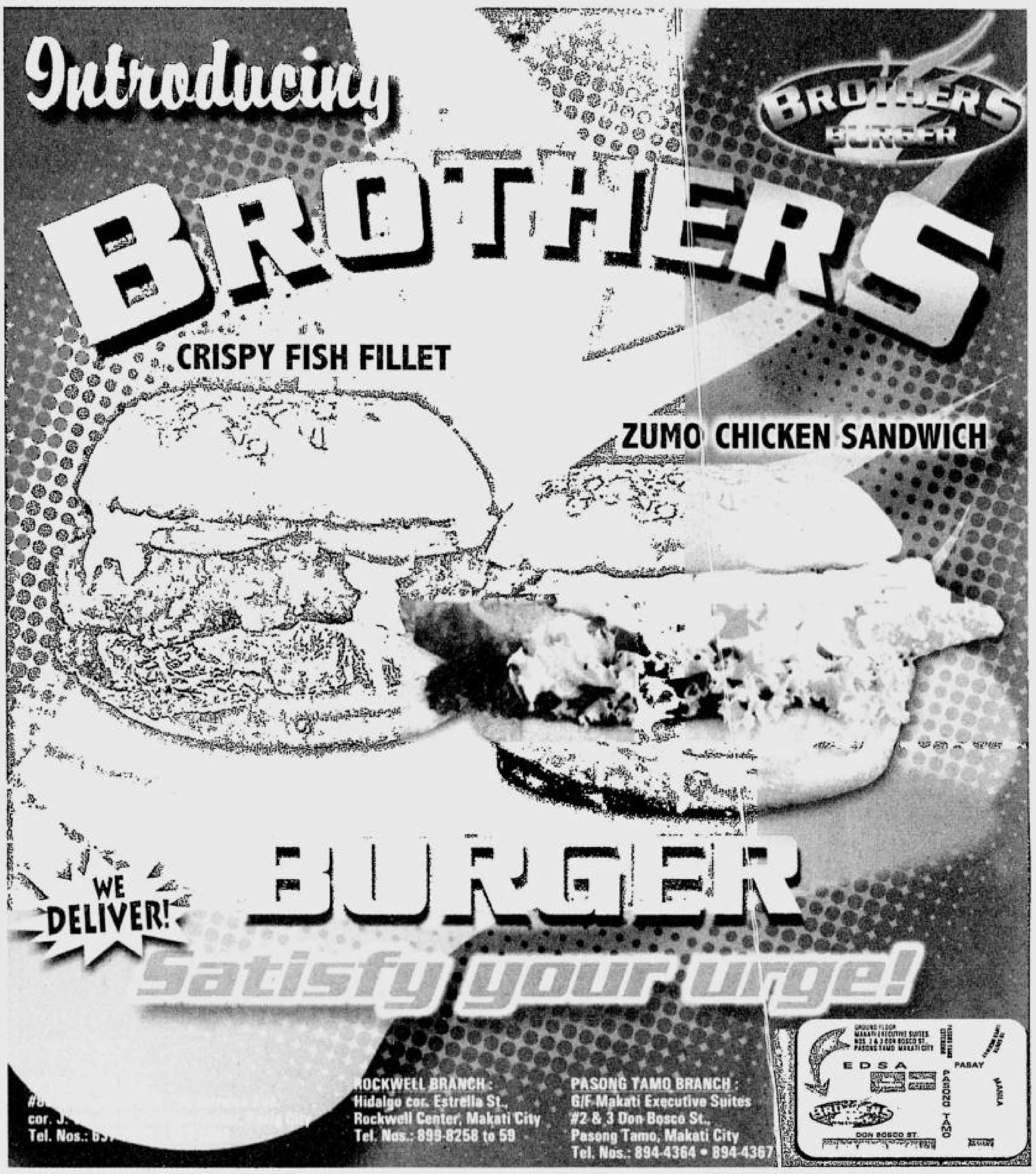

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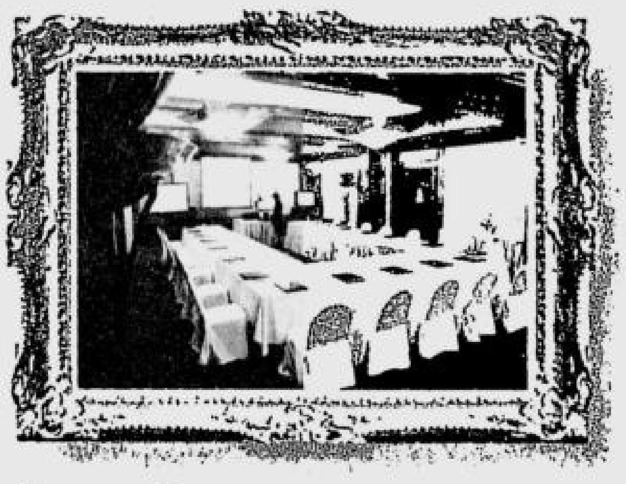
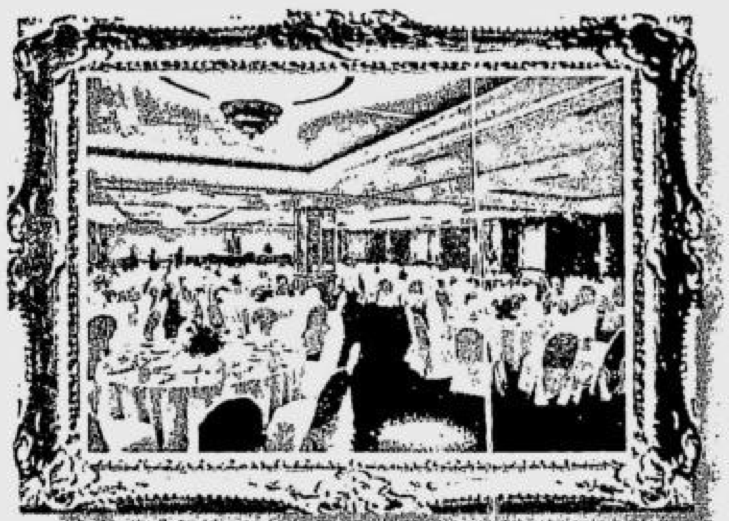


Hidalgo

Amorsolo



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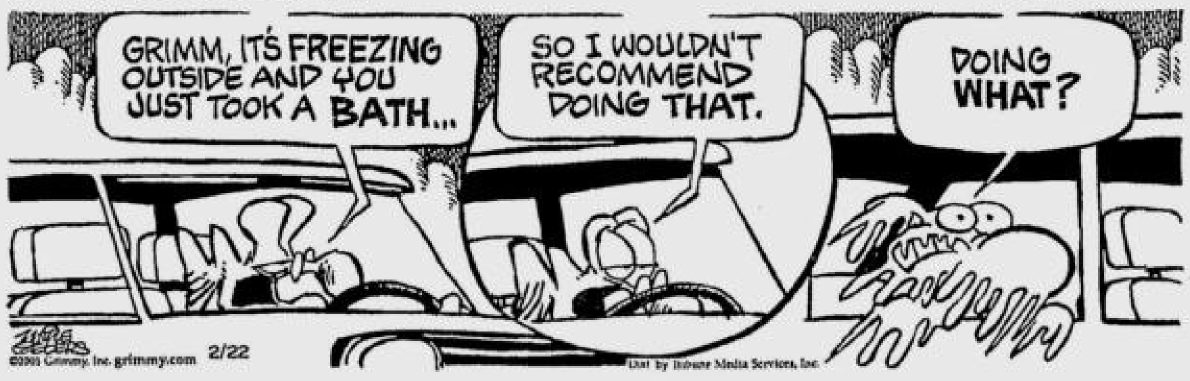
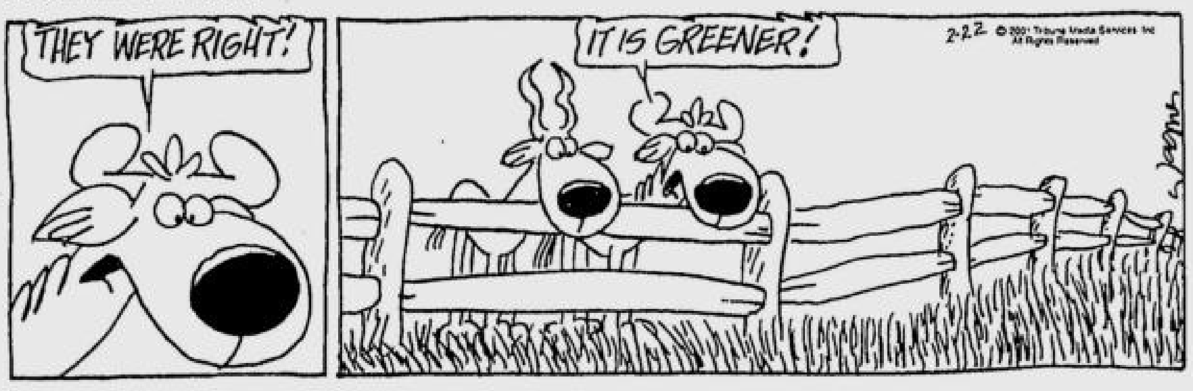
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, IT'S FREEZING OUTSIDE AND YOU JUST TOOK A BATH...
SO I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND DOING THAT.
DOING WHAT?
©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com 2/22
Dist by Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


THEY WERE RIGHT!
IT IS GREENER!
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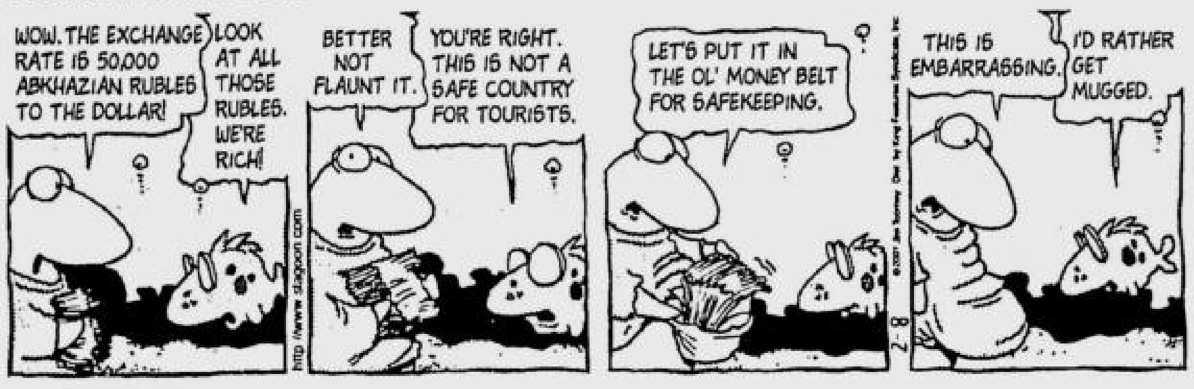
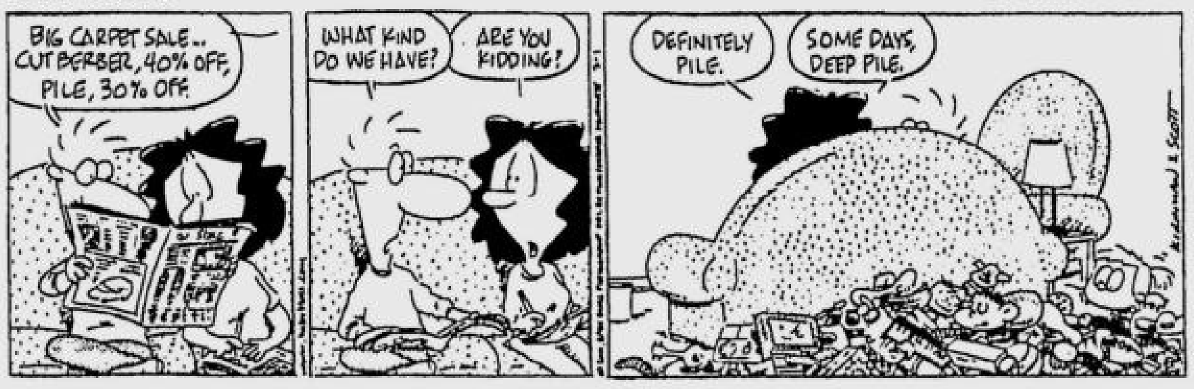
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WOW. THE EXCHANGE RATE IS 50,000 ABKHAZIAN RUBLES TO THE DOLLAR!
LOOK AT ALL THOSE RUBLES. WE'RE RICH!
BETTER NOT FLAUNT IT.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS IS NOT A SAFE COUNTRY FOR TOURISTS.
LET'S PUT IT IN THE OL' MONEY BELT FOR SAFEKEEPING.
THIS IS EMBARRASSING.
I'D RATHER GET MUGGED.
http://www.slagoon.com
2-8

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BIG CARPET SALE.. CUT BERBER, 40% OFF, PILE, 30% OFF.
WHAT KIND DO WE HAVE?
ARE YOU KIDDING?
DEFINITELY PILE.
SOME DAYS, DEEP PILE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Karl Malden, Marcel Marceau, William Shatner, Lena Olin, Bob Costas, Matthew Modine, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Reese Witherspoon

Happy Birthday: Don't let things bother you this year, or you won't reach your goals. Put your feelings aside and focus on what you can do to make your life better. The changes may not always be what you want, but if it will help your situation, you must move ahead. The rewards will be satisfying and probably lead you in a far more positive direction. Your numbers: 9, 14, 18, 22, 37, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Opportunities to show your worth will lead to sudden advancement. Your intuition will lead you in the right direction. Don't be afraid to start something new. You'll be surprisingly good at it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your health will suffer if you eat and drink excessively. Don't overreact to changes at work. Your reluctance to accept them will be viewed harshly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't stretch the truth. You may get blamed for something you didn't do. Social events will lead to romantic connections but if you're already involved don't even consider the offer.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't become involved in the personal affairs of others. You'll be blamed for taking sides or interfering. You'll be interested in foreign cultures.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You're too generous with your friends. Don't overextend yourself unless you're prepared to suffer the consequences. Financial problems will lead to a poor credit rating and a loss of respect.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Handle your personal partner with kid gloves. Don't neglect his or her needs. You may receive an invitation meant just for you. Think twice before you accept.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put a little pizzazz into your work. Your extra efforts will be appreciated. You need to spend some time getting back into shape. Shopping will be tempting, but you'll have to stick to a set budget.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pleasure trips and involvement with organizations will promote romance. Your ability to find solutions to benefit all involved will aid you in getting the approval you require.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone you live with is curtailing your freedom. Don't let him or her talk you into doing things you don't have time for. Lay down some ground rules before the situation escalates.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A sudden infatuation will bloom into a passionate love affair. Get together with friends or relatives, and you will find out valuable information about someone from your past.

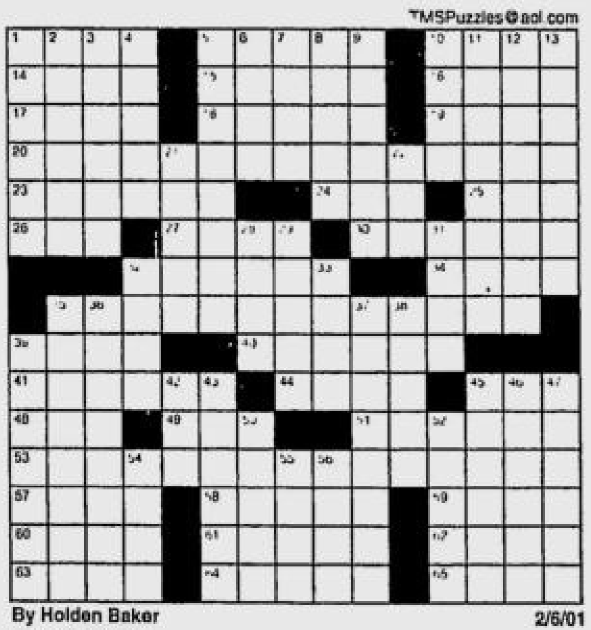
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Financial gains can be made through money that you haven't worked for. Winnings, insurance, dividends or investments may pay off. Be careful: easy come, easy go.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Romantic encounters will develop through group activity. Don't overreact to someone's advances. Use your genuine warmth and compassion to win hearts.

Birthday Baby: You are steady, ready and eager to put yourself to the test. You have an impeccable way of doing things and will not shy away from hard work or whatever it takes to reach your life goals.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA

2/6/01

ACROSS
1 Ram, stallion, tom, etc.
5 Chopped into small cubes
10 Work units
14 Inventor Sikorsky
15 Mindless
16 Swiss marksman
17 Wasteland
18 Rugby formation
19 Miscellany
20 Not worth considering
23 "__ by Starlight"
24 Poetic before
25 LAX info
26 Abel's partner
27 Man or Wight
30 Submit, as a contest entry
32 Have in mind
34 Very long time
35 One extreme sport
39 Bean used for sprouts
40 Outgoing
41 "We have nothing to fear but fear __"
44 Safecracker
45 Grow mellower
48 Sault __ Marie
49 Anatomical duct
51 Criticized bitterly
53 All the same
57 Opposed
58 Italian isle
59 Italian wine center
60 Comic Martin
61 ET, e.g.
62 Target on the green
63 Rapier's cousin
64 Present, e.g.
65 Lulu

DOWN
1 Silk tree
2 South American rodent
3 Pillaged
4 Swashbuckler Flynn
5 Aversion
6 Foot part
7 Upkeep
8 Accustom
9 Objects
10 Jacket or collar type
11 Turned to for help
12 Flashing
13 Catch phrases
21 Highland dance
22 Born in Bordeaux
28 Marvin and Remick
29 Delight in
31 Diamond or Young
32 "Bus Stop" playwright
33 Il __ (Mussolini)
35 Remain silent!
36 Make uneasy
37 Nasty headache
38 Heathen
39 Identify incorrectly
42 Gladiator's 56
43 Wealthy campaign contributor
45 Singer Krauss
46 Like a little lamb?
47 More nervous
50 Sedimentary rock
52 Pocatello spot
54 __ E. Coyote
55 Pirouette
56 Very pronounced French?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

T	O	M	E	■	P	A	C	A	■	D	R	A	K	E
O	P	E	N	■	O	D	E	R	■	R	O	L	E	S
V	E	S	T	■	L	I	N	E	■	A	L	A	R	M
■	C	H	A	R	I	O	T	S	O	F	F	I	R	E
■	■	■	N	U	T	S	■	■	■	G	T	F	■	■
G	A	R	G	L	E	■	A	N	D	Y	■	E	F	F
A	D	E	L	E	■	S	N	E	E	■	V	E	I	L
T	O	W	E	R	I	N	G	I	N	F	E	R	N	O
E	R	A	S	■	B	A	R	N	■	A	R	I	E	S
S	E	X	■	E	S	P	Y	■	E	M	B	E	R	S
■	■	■	A	D	E	■	■	■	P	L	E	A	■	■
B	L	A	Z	I	N	G	S	A	D	D	L	E	S	■
R	E	B	U	T	■	R	A	V	E	■	I	D	A	S
I	N	U	R	E	■	A	V	E	R	■	Z	E	N	O
T	O	T	E	D	■	F	E	D	S	■	E	N	D	S

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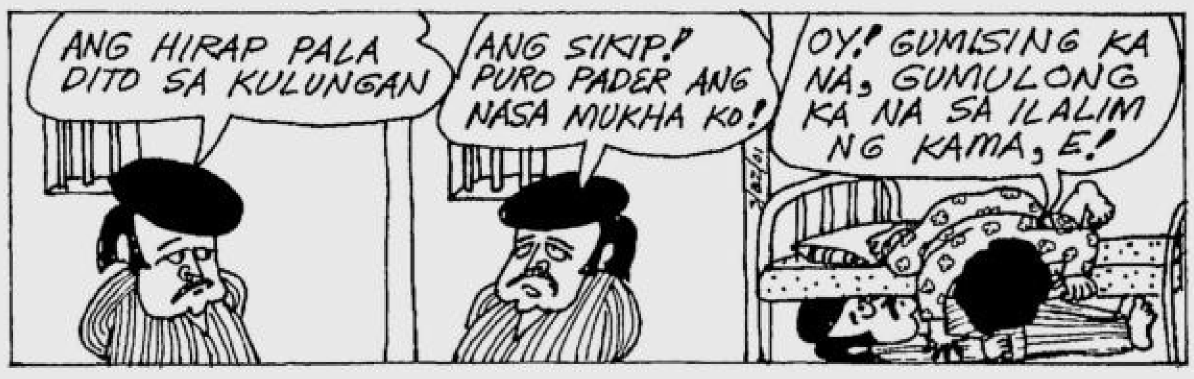
2/6/01

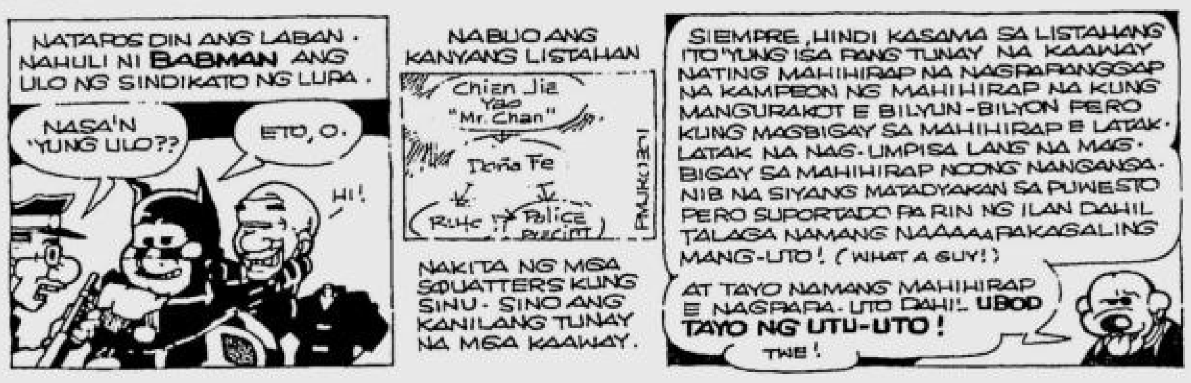
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG HIRAP PALA DITO SA KULUNGAN
ANG SIKIP! PURO PADER ANG NASA MUKHA KO!
OY! GUMISING KA NA, GUMULONG KA NA SA ILALIM NG KAMA, E!
3/22/01

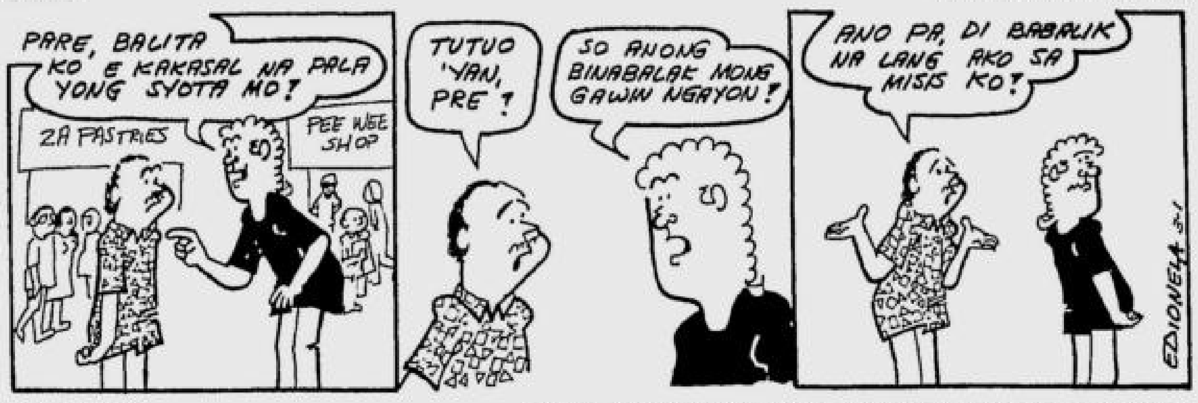
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NATAPOS DIN ANG LABAN. NAHULI NI BABMAN ANG ULO NG SINDIKATO NG LUPA.
NASA'N 'YUNG ULO??
ETO, O.
HI!
NABUO ANG KANYANG LISTAHAN
Chien Jia Yao "Mr. Chan"
Doña Fe
Ruhe
Police precinct
PMJR(3-21)
NAKITA NG MGA SQUATTERS KUNG SINU-SINO ANG KANILANG TUNAY NA MGA KAAWAY.
SIEMPRE, HINDI KASAMA SA LISTAHANG ITO 'YUNG ISA PANG TUNAY NA KAAWAY NATING MAHIHIRAP NA NAGPAPANGGAP NA KAMPEON NG MAHIHIRAP NA KUNG MANGURAKOT E BILYUN-BILYON PERO KUNG MAGBIGAY SA MAHIHIRAP E LATAK-LATAK NA NAG-UMPISA LANG NA MAGBIGAY SA MAHIHIRAP NOONG NANGANGANIB NA SIYANG MATADYAKAN SA PUWESTO PERO SUPORTADO PA RIN NG ILAN DAHIL TALAGA NAMANG NAAAAAPAKAGALING MANG-UTO! (WHAT A GUY!)
AT TAYO NAMANG MAHIHIRAP E NAGPAPA-UTO DAHIL UBOD TAYO NG UTU-UTO!
THE!

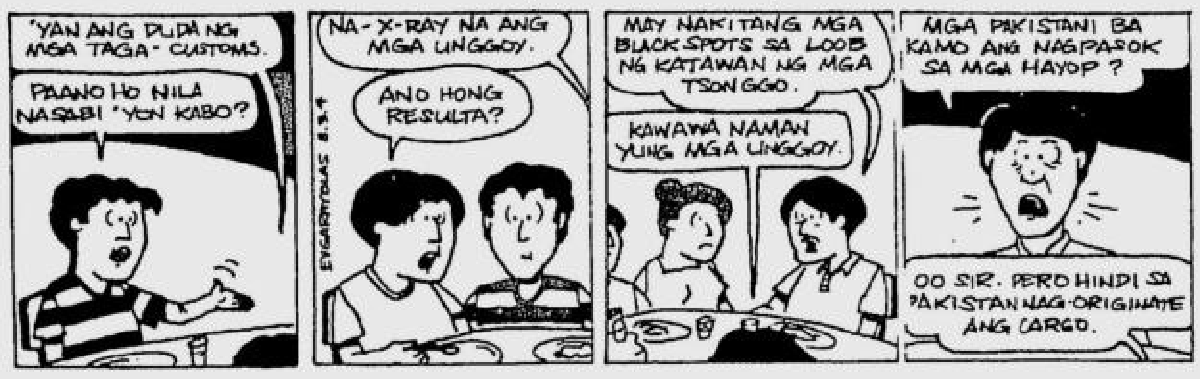
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PARE, BALITA KO E KAKASAL NA PALA YONG SYOTA MO!
ZA PASTRIES
PEE WEE SHOP
TUTUO 'YAN, PRE!
SO ANONG BINABALAK MONG GAWIN NGAYON!
ANO PA, DI BABALIK NA LANG AKO SA MISIS KO!
EDIONELA 3-1

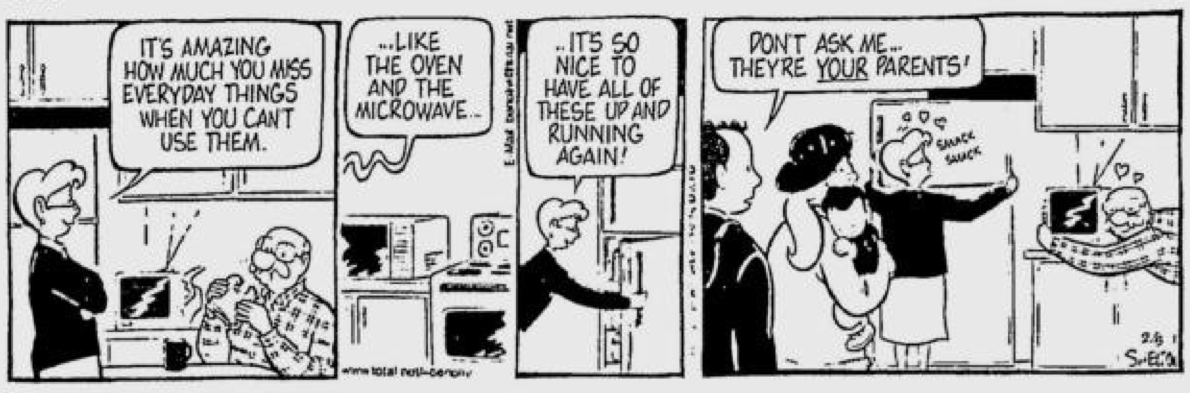
B1 GANG

BY A.T. SANTIAGUEL/ J.E. ALCARAZ/ E.V. GARAYBLAS


'YAN ANG DUDA NG MGA TAGA-CUSTOMS.
PAANO HO NILA NASABI 'YON KABO?
NA-X-RAY NA ANG MGA UNGGOY.
ANO HONG RESULTA?
EVGARAYBLAS 8.3.4
MAY NAKITANG MGA BLACK SPOTS SA LOOB NG KATAWAN NG MGA TSONGGO.
KAWAWA NAMAN YUNG MGA UNGGOY.
MGA PAKISTANI BA KAMO ANG NAGPASOK SA MGA HAYOP?
OO SIR. PERO HINDI SA PAKISTAN NAG-ORIGINATE ANG CARGO.

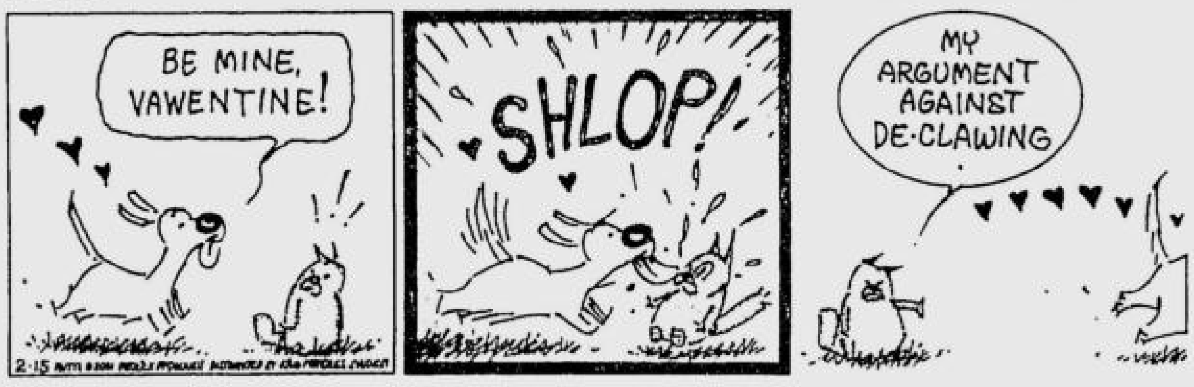
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH YOU MISS EVERYDAY THINGS WHEN YOU CAN'T USE THEM.
...LIKE THE OVEN AND THE MICROWAVE...
..IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE ALL OF THESE UP AND RUNNING AGAIN!
DON'T ASK ME... THEY'RE YOUR PARENTS!
SMACK SMACK
S-ECM

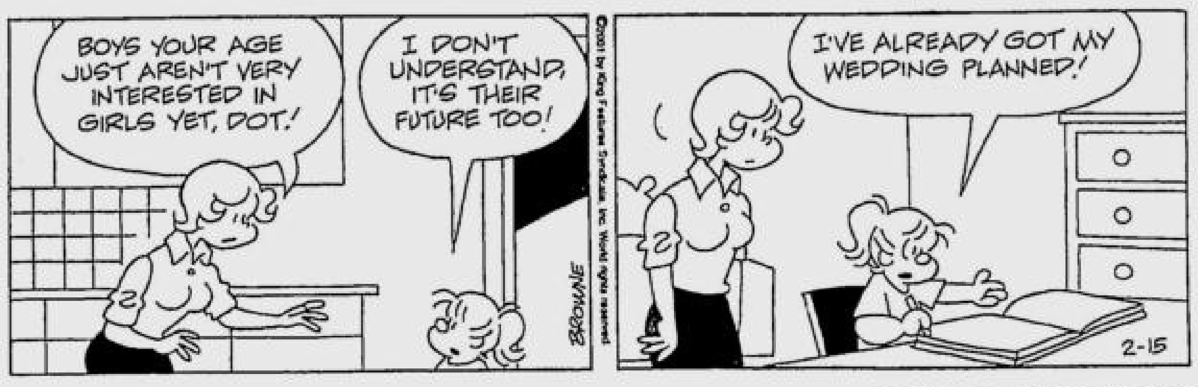
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BE MINE, VAWENTINE!
SHLOP!
MY ARGUMENT AGAINST DE-CLAWING
2-15

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


BOYS YOUR AGE JUST AREN'T VERY INTERESTED IN GIRLS YET, DOT!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, IT'S THEIR FUTURE TOO!
I'VE ALREADY GOT MY WEDDING PLANNED!
BROWNE
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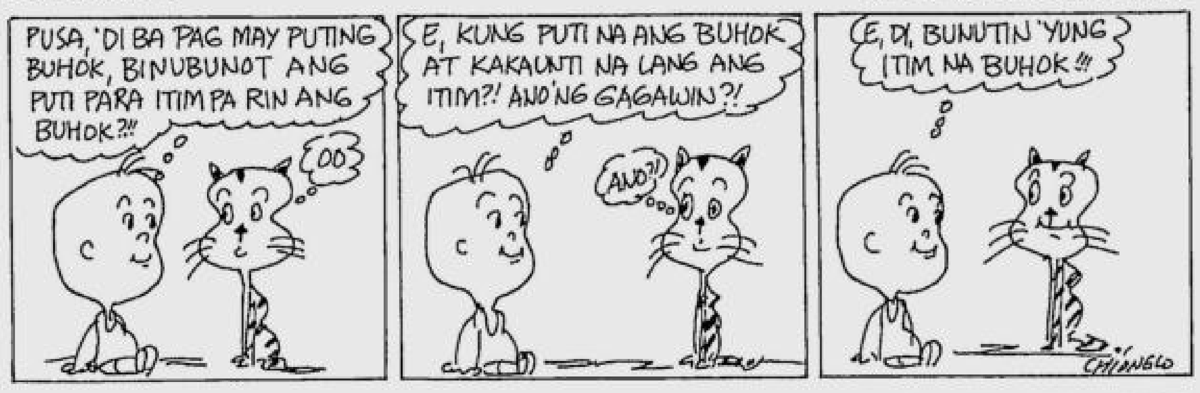
2-15

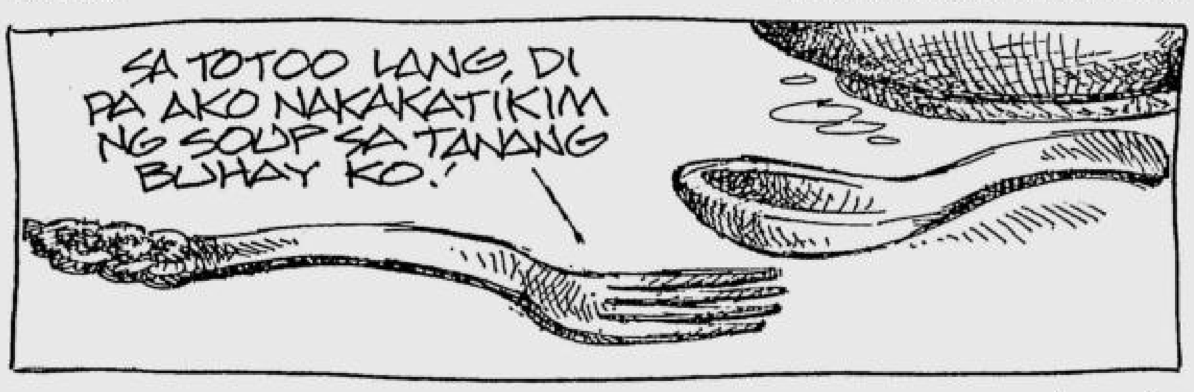
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, 'DI BA PAG MAY PUTING BUHOK, BINUBUNOT ANG PUTI PARA ITIM PA RIN ANG BUHOK?!!
OO
E, KUNG PUTI NA ANG BUHOK AT KAKAUNTI NA LANG ANG ITIM?! ANO'NG GAGAWIN?!
ANO?!
E, DI, BUNUTIN 'YUNG ITIM NA BUHOK!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


SA TOTOO LANG, DI PA AKO NAKAKATIKIM NG SOUP SA TANANG BUHAY KO.!

GRADUATION

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH **APPLE FONTANILLA**, Account Manager

When their calling is your satisfaction

YOU'VE done your 15-year (longer, perhaps) homework. You've made the teachers smile. You've done your school proud. After the last day of school, after you finally graduate from college, you feel you're ready to face the world and take on anything that comes your way. You see yourself at the center of the universe, your importance, your intelligence, and your brain swelling with fresh ideas will form a line of multinational firms at your doorstep.

Reality can be crueler than your last oral philosophy exam, though. The latest figures reveal that nearly half of the 70-million Filipino population—32 million—is as fit as you are for the career that you dream of. Of that 32-million workforce, about 3.6 million are having a hard time finding work.

Congratulations! You are currently the 3,600,001st on the unemployment list.

Are you still dreaming, then, of your first million in three years? That dream house in five? That first sports car from your first monthly commission at the most glamorous firm downtown?

Face it, dude. Thinking of me, myself and I won't land you a job. And if, by some luck, you do, you won't last long in it. Hey, we're not your regular Confucius, but wisdom dictates that to compete successfully in a society where even the last bus seat beside the overheating engine is being fought for, you have to have something different to offer. You must be offering something that's valuable to as many people as possible. And, most importantly, you must be thinking everyday is your first day of work. No, we're not telling you to ask the guard everyday where the washroom is. It's more of the attitude, the mindset, and the readiness to work your butt out everyday of the rest of your productive, adult life.

RAQUEL P. GOMEZ went around and discovered three interesting personalities making their own mark in three different fields. Read in and find out how, day by day, they secure a firmer hold on their careers, and their dreams.

WHEN/ C6

FABREGAS: A job in the entertainment industry, be it on or behind the camera, can become one's route to a successful career.

Spend, save smart with Equitable card

CONGRATULATIONS to the graduates of 2001! You've just danced the funky chicken out of college and will soon waltz into the professional world. Your first paycheck is not too far away.

But before you start spending the money you worked hard for, here are some tips from the financial experts at the Equitable CardNetwork, the country's leading credit card provider.

The Equitable CardNetwork gives new graduates like you a host of cards to choose from—the Equitable PCI-Bank Visa, Visa Electron, MasterCard, JCB, and American Express.

The Equitable CardNetwork espouses smart spending by sharing these valuable money saving tips:

Build a ``black hole". In a few years from now, you will be getting married, starting your own family, putting up your own business, or taking a Caribbean cruise. So you better start saving up for that by planning your expenses. From the outset, figure out how much of your salary will go to your basic necessities and how much you have to contribute to your household. Set aside a small amount for luxuries, like watching a movie, or eating out on weekends. The rest should go into a "black hole" bank account. Just like real black holes in outer space, what goes in never comes out. Be firm and don't succumb to petty temptations. When that milestone in your life comes ten years from now, you will look back with satisfaction at all those times when you refused to dip your hands into your black hole.

Invest in quality. Quality should be your first and foremost concern in buying anything. Going for good quality appliances, for example, will save you the aggravation and costs of repeated repairs. Even if the initial cash outlay may seem bigger, you are actually saving more money. The same rule applies when shopping for clothes, shoes, and other personal effects. Always keep in mind that cheap products often turn out to be disposable, requiring you to buy a replacement long before you intend to. This doesn't mean, however, that you should go only for premium brand name products. Do your homework and research about the best value-for-money bargains. In doing so, you will be able to find the best compromise—a reasonably-priced product that is almost as good as its brand name equivalent. Smart shoppers call this a steal!

Think, think, think, then purchase. As a rule of thumb, postpone purchases, specially the ones that do not spell the difference between life and death. Maybe you don't need to splurge on that fancy handbag or diver's watch right now. The three things to think of are:

1) Can I do without this for the meantime?

2) Is there an equivalent that is just as good but less expensive?

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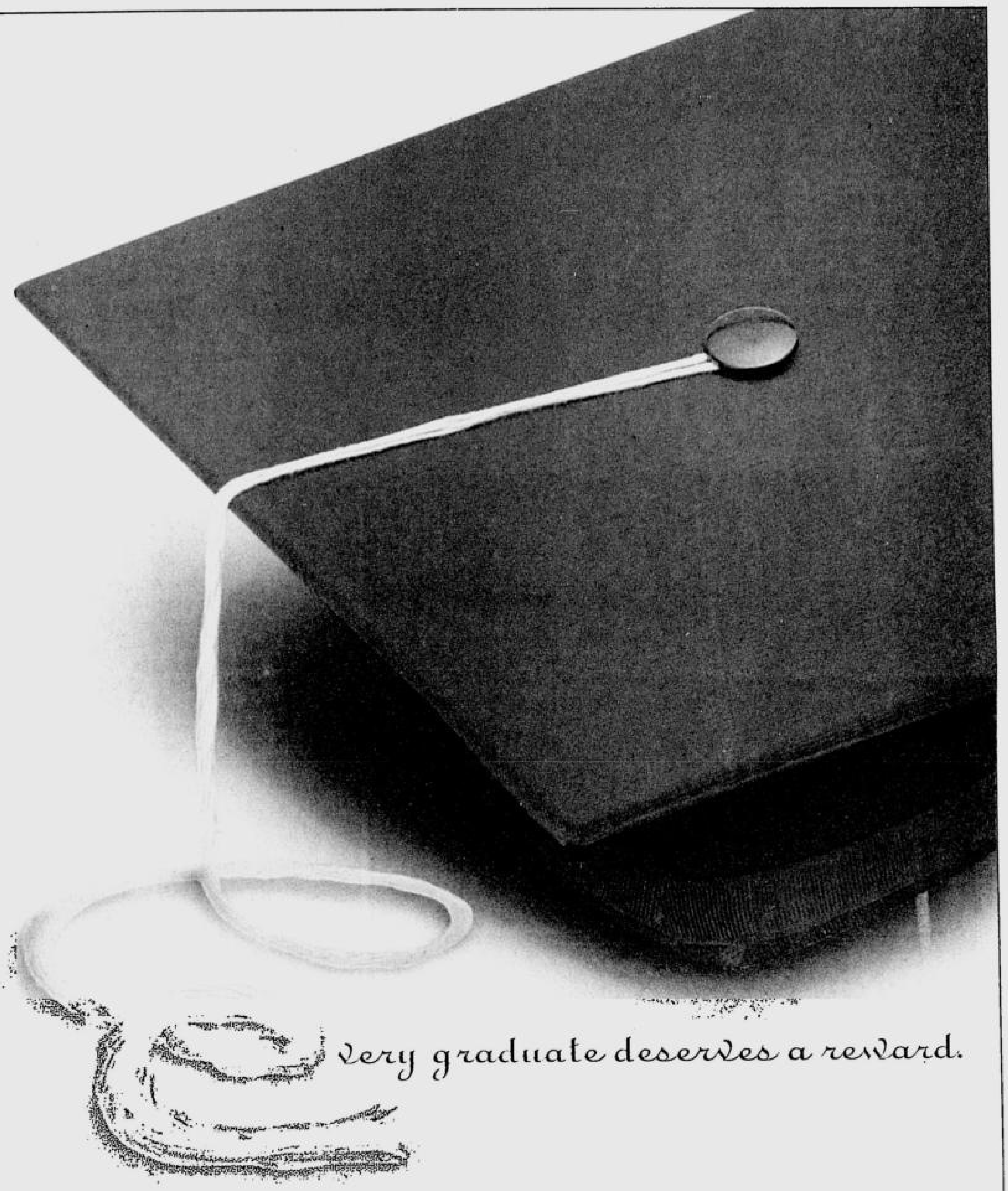

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When their calling . . .

(From page C5)

To act or not to act

Jaime Fabregas, actor, film scorer

"I ALWAYS tell everyone, my job is no different from that of a lawyer or a doctor," says Jaime Fabregas, the mestizo comedian and character actor who is extremely hard not to place in one's mind. (The balding head and mustache usually gives him in.)

When he talks of his "job," Fabregas refers to his many roles both on and behind the camera. He has appeared in many movies, sitcoms and TV dramas, commercials. He even hosted magazine shows. On the flipside of the entertainment industry, he, too, moonlighted as production and merchandizing man. He also does musical scoring for movies.

To Fabregas, a job in the entertainment industry—be it acting or musical scoring—is like any other job that needs focus and attention and can really become one's route to a fruitful career.

"I think people look at us who work in the film industry on a completely different level because they see us on film, TV. Our names are on billboards," he says. "But technically, it's just a job. And to me, any job, if you do it good and study it really hard, you can always make a living out of it."

Fabregas also considers his job on a completely different level from that of the "big name" stars. He is a character actor, and in the industry, character actors who play supporting roles to the big stars often get paid less than the gargantuan amount.

> 'People look at us who work in the film industry on a different level because they see us on film. But technically, it's just a job. And to me, any job, if you do it good and study it really hard, you can always make a living out of it'

"If you're a big star, you make a lot of money. *Ang gaya namin nila* Noel Trinidad, Subas Herrero, Rey Ventura and Pen Medina, we don't get paid a hell of a lot of money, but at least *ang trabaho namin* consistent. We can keep working. But money and fame should not be the end all and be all of going into the entertainment industry. You're doing it because you enjoy the work."

Fabregas says young people today are lucky, because if they want to enter the entertainment industry, they can now take a course in film and acting, which he says before were only considered as hobby courses.

In fact, Fabregas studied chemical engineering, and even went as far into it as fourth year. But his heart wasn't into it. He already fell in love with the stage when he was still in high school in Naga City. In college in La Salle he met Peque Gallaga, Leo Martinez, and Butch Perez and became part of the school's drama guild.

From stage to TV then film and film scoring, then back again to the different mediums—this is how Fabregas describes his career growth in the industry. Currently he's doing two shows in ABS-CBN Channel 2—"Pwedeng Pwede" with Robin Padilla and Redford White and "Hanggang sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan", a TV series with Claudine Barreto.

UY: Whatever goal you wish to attain, you have to work on it now.

ROMY HOMILLADA

"I've been lucky. I've been able to work with most of the best directors," he says referring to Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, Maryo J. delos Reyes, Chito Roño and Marilou Diaz Abaya.

What particular work does he like doing in the entertainment industry? Fabregas says acting and making movie scores demand different disciplines.

"As a matter of fact, when I do music, I enjoy it more because I'm free to create my own. In films, I'm typecast. I usually do the father roles or *nakakahon na* roles. Once in a while a role like I did in Rizal comes *along na medyo mas malawak ang* range *ng* emotions."

For Fabregas, a job in the entertainment industry isn't a gold mine. But he says it can give one a comfortable life if one really works hard. "Our lives have been comfortable. *Hindi umaapaw ang pera*, but we're comfortable. I have no complaint. And *sabi nga sa* text message happiness is not getting what you want but it's being satisfied with what you have. That works for me."

Service is my calling

Gilbert Uy,. Dusit Hotel Nikko's food and beverage manager

GILBERT UY had his future all planned out when he finished college in the late 1980s. He wanted to be a flight steward—

WHEN/ C7

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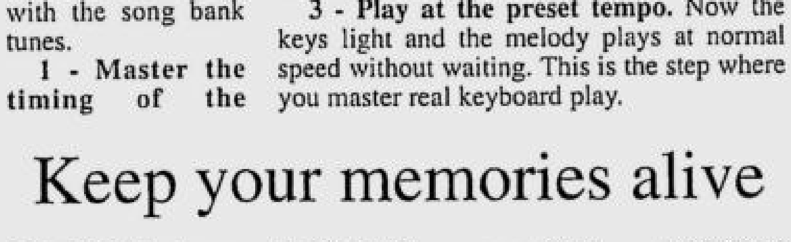

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Let's hear it from Denise Sarile, college batch 1994 to tell us her fond memories of graduation.

"I grew up hardly noticing that it was Photoline down in Robinsons Galleria that had been my mom's favorite stop whenever there was an important occasion to capture. Our visits to Photoline had become so habitual that not until I discovered there were countless other Photoline branches sprouting all over the metropolis did I realize that my family's loyalty to the photo shop had been a national experience.

So when my college graduation came, the film, the camera, the processing-developing and the succeeding copying and enlargements were all from Photoline. I trust only my pictures to its courteous and well-trained staff. Obviously, years in the industry had imbibed in its workplace a culture of establishing personalized relationship with each customer. It's very much like the Pinoy "suki" phenomenon.

This photo is among my favorite graduation moments.

It almost got lost because there had been some difficulties in the lighting. The technician in Photoline saw its hidden beauty. He offered to make adjustments in his machine and by doing so brought out the real photo-journalism value embedded in what could have been a rather ordinary shot. Now my friends tell me I can even sell it to a "stock image" company because of its universal appeal."

Start keeping your memories alive this graduation. Visit any of the 26 Photoline branches near you and see for yourself how they can make events in your life truly memorable.

When their calling is your satisfaction

(From page C6)

and almost made it—had it not been for the written exam, which he bungled. A cousin advised him to answer the test in a very positive and confident way, which he did. However, his character turned out to be "very strong" for a steward's job.

So, an exciting steward's job took off and left him, but in its place came an opportunity for him to work in a hotel. A friend recommended Uy for a front desk clerk position in Silahis Hotel, and for Uy that was the start for a string of promotions. He became tour coordinator then duty manager of the hotel.

In 1993, he was hired as duty manager of Dusit Nikko Hotel. After a couple of years, he was promoted to banquet sales manager until eventually he took over the job of a food and beverage manager. As F and B manager, he takes care of the promotion and operation of all the food outlets and restaurants in Dusit (Benjarong Royal Thai, Benkay, The Café, The Deli, Ciao Bar-Ristorante, lobby lounge, Paulaner Brauhaus and poolside bar).

"I wanted to get into the hotel because I thought it was a glamorous job," he says. He found out there was really no glamour in work that was purely service. "But you do get satisfaction, such as talking to guests and finding out solutions to their problems."

"I enjoy the kind of work I am doing," he says. "It's not routine. You're not stuck to a table eight hours, although *mahirap din ang trabaho*. In my experience, I've been moving from one position to the other. Each time as I move to a different position, I try to learn new things and that makes it more exciting, *kasi* it's a new challenge, new task, new responsibility."

Uy says there's still a wide room for opportunities in the hotel industry. To be successful, however, one needs to be always ready to assume responsibility.

"I read this in a book that says whatever next step or goal you wish to attain, you have to do that job now," he says. "When I was working as a front desk clerk, I was already doing the function of the supervisor. Slowly, I assumed responsibility already. It's your own initiative, like you are training yourself for the job. Once that position becomes vacant, because you already know how to do it, it's easy for you to say I can do that job well. As you get that new position, it builds self-confidence."

Of the 32-million-strong labor force in the Philippines, 13.2 million are employed in the service sector, 15.2 million make a living in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. The rest, 3.6 million of them, are unemployed. Graduates fear there'd be no more space for them in an overloaded ship. Perhaps the answer lies in building another boat

Romancing the pen

Maia Jose (Tessa Cruz San Diego), romance novelist

THE JOB of a fiction writer is a particular envy of everyone. You're not tied to a nine-to-five desk job. You don't think of sales quotas, and you don't need to convince people to buy your deodorant. You don't greet people nice and open champagne bottles for them. In short, you don't give a damn on the world around you except to give them pure entertainment—but on your own terms. Every time your book comes out, you feel euphoric, and when a horde of followers buy it, you feel your hardships, like sleepless nights thinking of twisted plots, have finally paid off.

That is the world of Maia Jose, a romance novelist. Jose has been writing romance books for a decade and she has written over 70 books (published by Books for Pleasure).

A graduate of UP, she got into this kind of work when she went to a Bookfair affair and submitted a script to a booth. That led to an exciting career in romance book making. Aside from churning out at least one novel a month, she also does editing work for Books for Pleasure.

Jose says a romance novelist's job does pay—but not that much. Entry level writers can usually be paid about P5,000 per manuscript of 100 to 120 pages.

"Unless the writer is under contract, there is no guarantee that submissions will be accepted every month. It would be better for a new writer to have many options and other income-earning activities," says Jose.

Once a writer has built a name, though, and has become a bestseller, he or she can demand a fair price and could live on full-time writing, says Jose.

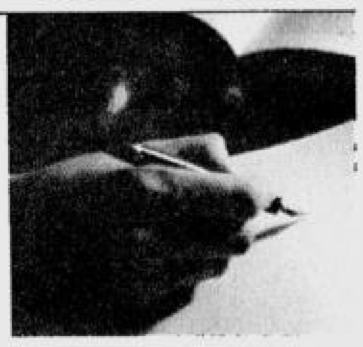
JOSE: Once a writer has built a name, her or she can demand a fair price and live on full-time writing. BETOY JOHNSON

The job requires no particular course, just lots of imagination and willingness to confront the blank screen of the computer to conquer one's fear of writing.

Aside from this, she says one has to read through the line-up of the various local publishers to survey the current state of the local romance pocketbook market.

If you have an idea or story to sell, she says, you can call the publishers and ask for specific writers' guidelines.

"Don't forget to ask about their rates and policies (e.g. is that rate for outright sale or does it represent royalty for a specific number of copies?) If you're lucky you'll find a publisher and an editor who will match your style and needs. Be ready to adjust, though," she says.



'Eavesdrop in jeepneys, buses, fastfood centers for ideas. There is romantic drama everywhere. Be open to the demands of the market but keep this balanced with responsible writing.'

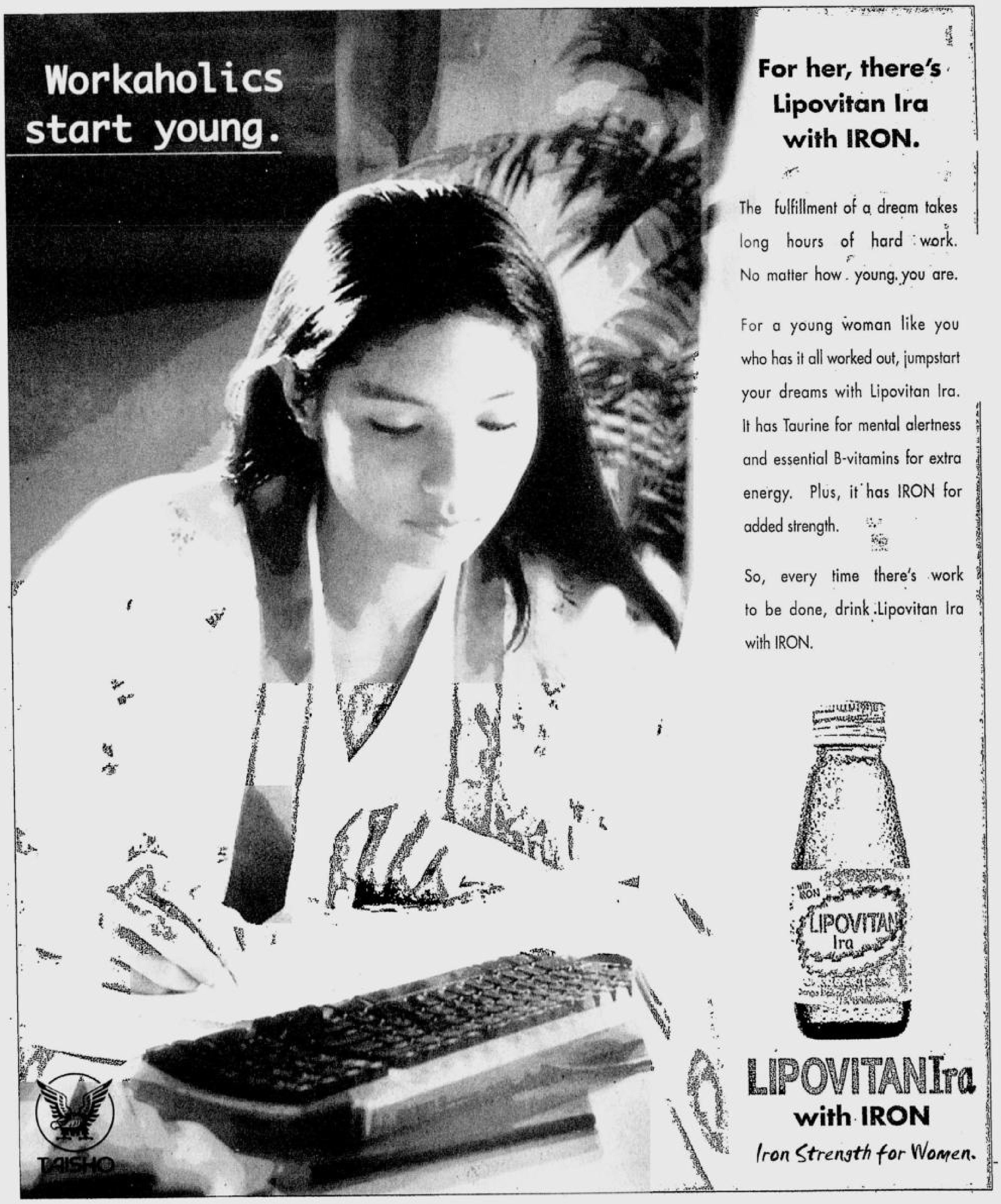
"Read a lot of English romance to get a feel of the genre," she says. But she cautions to not translate verbatim what you read and insert it into your work.

She says "eavesdrop in jeepneys, buses, fastfood centers for ideas. There is romantic drama everywhere."

And finally, you should develop your own writing style and improve on it.

"Be open to the demands of the market but keep this balanced with responsible writing. Just write. Submit. Rewrite if asked to do so. Be persistent."

Jose currently edits a teen romance line for Books and says it's open for submissions.



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A graduate in your family

FOR 10 seemingly endless years, you dutifully went to parent-teacher conferences and sat on those little chairs. You typed term papers about the life of our national hero. You helped your kid get through it all—the schoolyard squabbles, the first boy/girl party, the first date, the "JS" prom. And now, you'll get to help once again. But this time he (or she) is wearing an outfit that you approve of: a cap and gown.

But don't go nostalgic, yet. Your work is not completely done, for you and your graduate still haven't agreed on what to wear under that graduation gown. The only outfit that "breathes" less than a graduation gown is a space suit. Nothing is worse than a graduate who squishes across the stage, so think light, airy fabrics like cotton and linen. Unless the school has specific rules (and many do), please make sure that Miss Graduate is wearing something easy and elegant—a simple dress or a skirt and blouse would be perfect. Whatever she chooses, what's underneath should be in a light color if her graduation gown is white. Not only is it cooler, but nothing ruins the look of that hard-earned graduation gown more than seeing the faint outline of the magenta dress underneath (which, of course, you won't even notice until the pictures come back).

> Think carefully about who to invite to the graduation ceremony. What if they all show up and you don't have passes for them?

Depending on school customs, Mr. Graduate may need to wear a tie. If so, this is the time to borrow a rep tie or foulard from Dad to wear with a neatly pressed shirt in white, blue or another pale color. Either a spread collar or button-down is perfectly fine. Even if a tie is not required, it looks so much better that you ought to bribe him to do it. Don't insist on dress trousers; neatly pressed casual khaki or olive drab is fine. However, draw the line at jeans and shorts.

Ironically, just about the only part of a graduate that is actually visible to the audience is footwear. Girls should go with a moderately dressy shoe (either flats or pumps are fine). Boys need to wear either a loafer or dress shoe. Graduation is not the place for flip-flops, sandals, tennis shoes or bunny slippers, regardless of the gender of the graduate. Nor is graduation the time for your kid to affix a message out of masking tape letters to the top of her mortarboard or the back of her gowns. Do your best to discourage it.

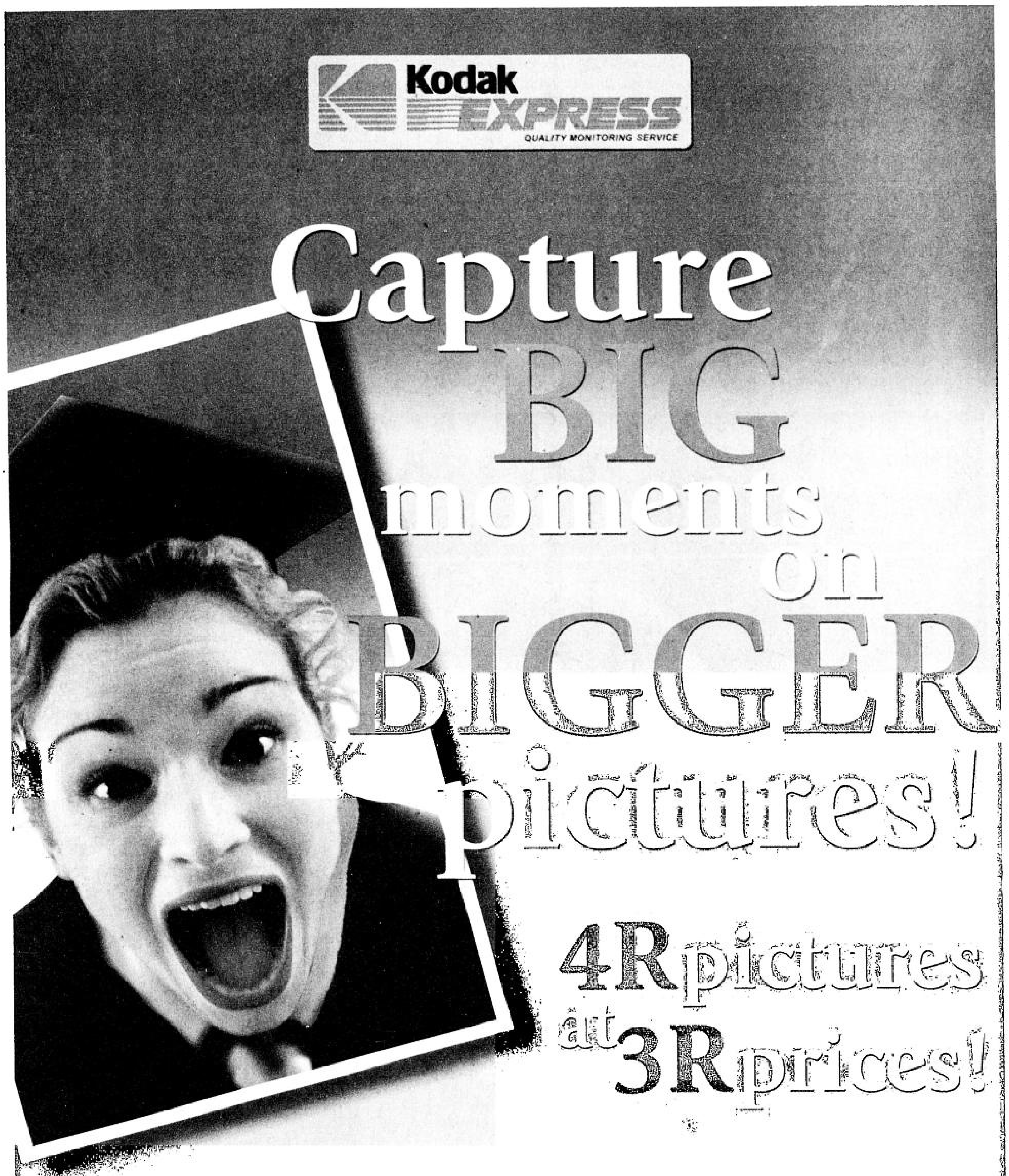
Once you determine that your graduate probably is not going to humiliate himself (or you) by mooning the audience à la Robin Williams in Patch Adams, who should you invite to watch him march across the stage? To whom are you going to send announcements?

Graduation announcements, while not originally viewed as a request for gifts, unfortunately have become associated in recent years with forced gift giving. Graduation announcements should not be distributed to people other than close friends and family members, unless the notation "No gifts please" has been added.

The same thing goes for graduation invitations (which differ from the announcements only in that they include a request for attendance at the ceremony as opposed to merely announcing the impending receipt of the diploma or degree). This is particularly true because many degree-granting institutions impose limits on the number of spectators who actually may attend, and issue tickets to the graduate to be given to those select members of the family or friends who actually are expected to show up at the ceremonies. Think carefully about who to invite to the graduation ceremony; after all, what if they all actually show up and you don't have tickets for them?

Better to invite only immediate family and closest friends (such as godparents) to the ceremony. That means, of course, that you must have at least one fabulous graduation party to which you can invite all of those people who helped you and your family survive the last 10 years. Whether it is a traditional graduation party such as an open house or a more "organized party" such as a roast for the graduate or a buffet dinner, plan a party theme that reflects what your graduate's plans for the future are. For example, if college is the ticket, get on the phone (or online) to that college's bookstore and order balloons, school banners and posters, and anything else that serves both as decoration for your party as well as souvenirs for your guests. Buy fake mortarboards and fill them with flowers in the school colors for instant centerpieces.

It is easy to say that you should plan a graduation party that the graduates will actually remain at throughout the evening, but that actually never has happened. That's okay, though, because once they leave to go to the next party (at which they will also remain just long enough to eat), you and your friends and finally can sit around and reminisce about that first boy/girl party.... ***Party411.com***



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